DEVIL
IN
THE WATER
AKIKO HIKARU
SUGGESTED
15 UP

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OF NOTE: UNLIKE MOST OF COMICSONE'S OLD TITLES, THIS BOOK IS UNFLIPPED, SO READ RIGHT TO LEFT. THEY'VE EVEN ADDED HELPFUL LITTLE ARROWS AT THE TOP OF EVERY PAGE. THIS WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS AGO. MANGA'S COME A LONG WAY, NO?

~ORIANA3K

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DEVIL IN THE WATER

AKIKO HATSU

*THIS BOOK IS PRESENTED IN IT'S ORIGINAL FORMAT
THE PAGES ARE UNFLIPPED SO IN ORDER TO READ THIS BOOK PROPERLY, YOU MUST READ IT FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.
JUST READ IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BLACK ARROW LOCATED AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE

THE DEVIL IN THE WATER

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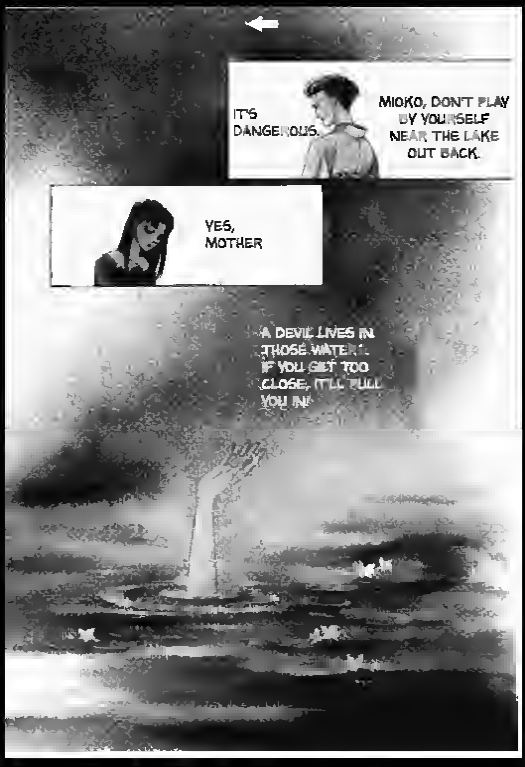

IT'S DANGEROUS.
MIOKO, DON'T PLAY BY YOURSELF NEAR THE LAKE OUT BACK.
YES, MOTHER
A DEVIL LIVES IN THOSE WATERS. IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, IT'LL PULL YOU IN.

DEVIL IN
THE WATER

WHENEVER I FEEL LONELY, I VISIT HER.
BUT WHEN I LOOK INTO THE WATER, SHE LOOKS BACK AT ME WITH MY OWN SMILE ON HER FACE.
AND SHE LAUGHS SOFTLY

woof
WHINE, WHINE.
DID YOU GUYS COME TO MEET ME?
HEY
MAY I HELP YOU?
OH, EXCUSE ME. I'M

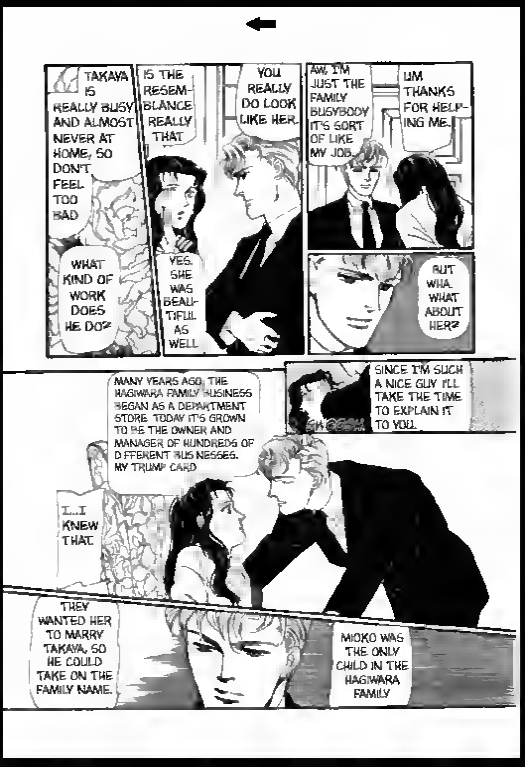
OH SAWA
MRS UMEDA?
EEEEK!
GASP!
WHINE, WHINE
GASP!
MS. MIOKO?
AH! TAKAYA
SIR.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

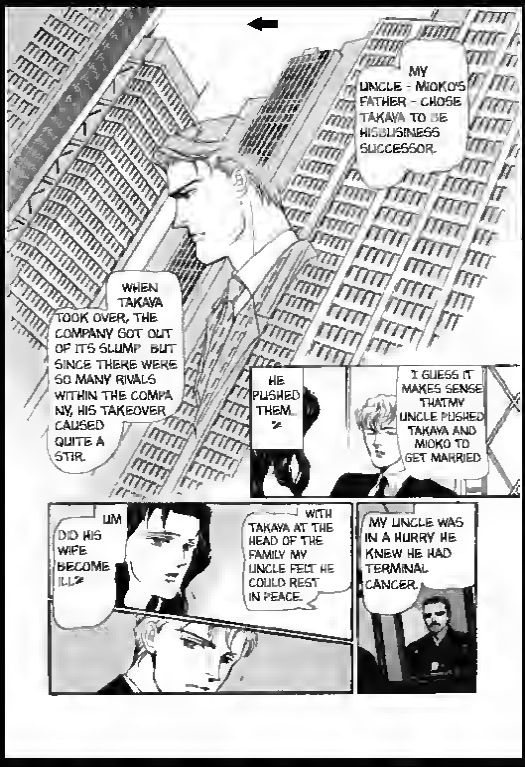
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

MY NAME'S NATSUKO HIGUCHI
SO, YOU'RE THE PERSON MY UNCLE SAEKI RECOMMENDED.
PLEASE FORGIVE WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER.
IT'S TRUE THAT ONE OF OUR MAIDS QUIT LAST MONTH AND WE NEED HELP, BUT...
I WAS HIRED AS A LIVE-IN MAID.
YOU SEE.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. IT'S JUST...
HUH?
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO LIVE HERE.

YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY DEAD WIFE.
ALL MY RELATIVES ARE HERE TO COMMEMRATE THE FORTY-NINTH DAY SINCE HER DEATH. THE CEREMONY WAS TODAY THEYVE GOT DIRTY HANDS.
YOUR DEAD WIFE? SO THAT'S WHY EVERYONE WAS
THE FACT THAT YOU CAME ON THIS OF ALL DAYS IS ALMOST TOO UNCANNY
BUT
I'LL NEVER FIND AS GOOD A POSITION AS THIS ONE AND
I'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AN ADVANCE FOR THIS MONTH'S SALARY
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF ABOUT THAT. WE'LL ARRANGE A SEVERANCE PACKAGE FOR YOU AND I CAN GIVE YOU ANOTHER MONTH'S SALARY IF YOU WISH.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
THAT'S RIGHT

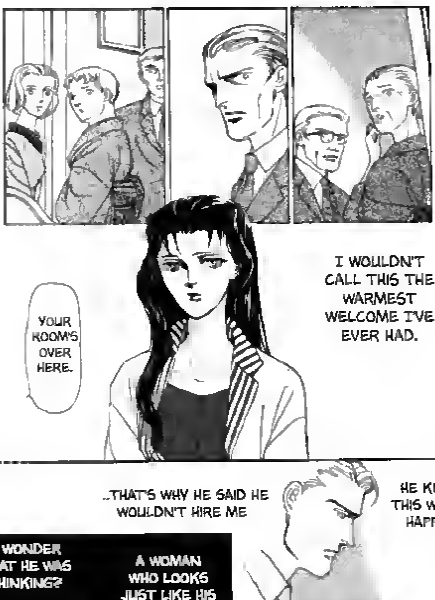
WHY NOT ?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S NOT SO STRANGE FOR TWO PEOPLE TO LOOK ALIKE. IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
AND YOU REALLY DON'T PLAN ON REJECTING SOMEONE RECOMMENDED BY UNCLE SAEKI, DO YOU?
HARUKI
UM
MS. RIGUCHI, YOU MAY ASK MS SAWA ABOUT YOUR DUTIES. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS
—OH, ALRIGHT TAKE HER TO MS. SAWA.

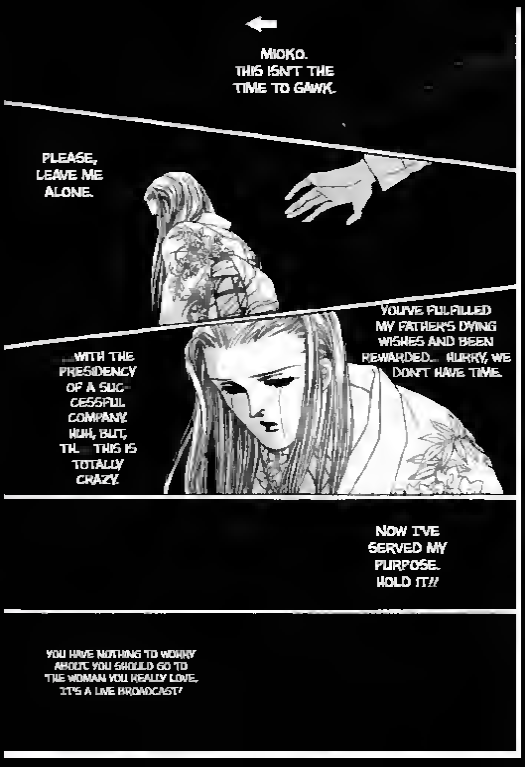

TAKAYA IS REALLY BUSY AND ALMOST NEVER AT HOME, SO DON'T FEEL TOO BAD
WHAT KIND OF WORK DOES HE DO?
IS THE RESEMBLANCE REALLY THAT
YES. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AS WELL
YOU REALLY DO LOOK LIKE HER.
AW, I'M JUST THE FAMILY BUSYBODY IT'S SORT OF LIKE MY JOB.
UM THANKS FOR HELPING ME.
BUT WHA. WHAT ABOUT HER?
SINCE I'M SUCH A NICE GUY I'LL TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
MANY YEARS AGO, THE HAGIWARA FAMILY BUSINESS BEGAN AS A DEPARTMENT STORE. TODAY IT'S GROWN TO BE THE OWNER AND MANAGER OF HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT BUSINESSES. MY TRUMP CARD
I...I KNEW THAT.
THEY WANTED HER TO MARRY TAKAYA, SO HE COULD TAKE ON THE FAMILY NAME.
MIOKO WAS THE ONLY CHILD IN THE HAGIWARA FAMILY


MY UNCLE - MIOKO'S FATHER - CHOSE TAKAYA TO BE HIS BUSINESS SUCCESSOR.
WHEN TAKAYA TOOK OVER, THE COMPANY GOT OUT OF ITS SLUMP BUT SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY RIVALS WITHIN THE COMPANY, HIS TAKEOVER CAUSED QUITE A STIR.
HE PUSHED THEM...
I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE THAT MY UNCLE PUSHED TAKAYA AND MIOKO TO GET MARRIED
UM DID HIS WIFE BECOME ILL?
WITH TAKAYA AT THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY MY UNCLE FELT HE COULD REST IN PEACE.
MY UNCLE WAS IN A HURRY HE KNEW HE HAD TERMINAL CANCER.

WHAT?!
LOOK.
CAN YOU SEE THE LAKE AT THE VERY BACK OF THE GARDEN?
MIOKO DIED IN THAT LAKE.
SHE COULDN'T SWIM SO MOST PEOPLE THINK IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
...BUT I THINK IT WAS SUICIDE, MAYBE EVEN

GASP!
MURDER
MAYBE...
I'VE KEPT YOU TOO LONG HOW SELFISH OF ME
AH, YOUR NAME'S NATSUKO HIGUCHI, RIGHT?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME'S SAWA KOIZUMI I'M, AH, THE HEAD HOUSE KEEPER
WELL, THEN, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND AND TELL YOU WHAT YOU, AH, HAVE TO DO.
DID, AH, MR. HASHIMARA EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO YOU?
YES

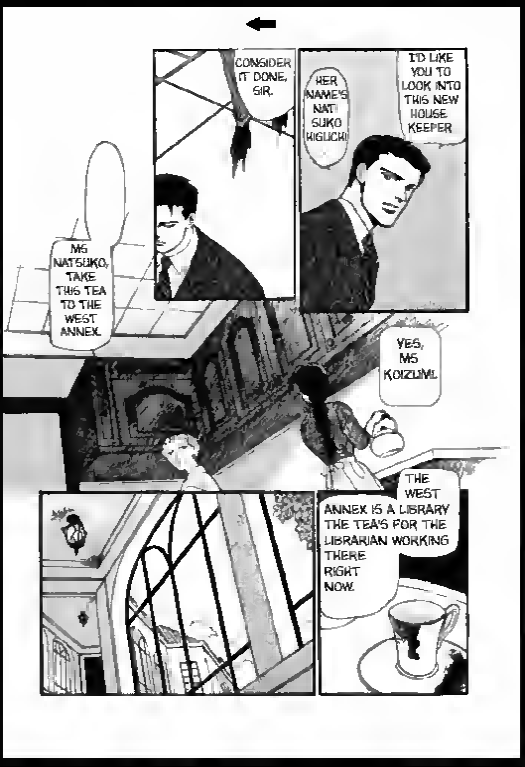

I WOULDN'T CALL THIS THE WARMEST WELCOME I'VE EVER HAD.
YOUR ROOM'S OVER HERE.
..THAT'S WHY HE SAID HE WOULDN'T HIRE ME
HE KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN
I WONDER WHAT HE WAS THINKING?
A WOMAN WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS DEAD WIFE


MIOKO.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO GAWK.
PLEASE, LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU'VE FULFILLED MY FATHER'S DYING WISHES AND BEEN REWARDED... HURRY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
...WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF A SUCCESSFUL COMPANY. HUH, BUT, TH... THIS IS TOTALLY CRAZY.
NOW I'VE SERVED MY PURPOSE. HOLD IT!!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. YOU SHOULD GO TO THE WOMAN YOU REALLY LOVE. IT'S A LIVE BROADCAST.

MIOKO!
woof
woof
woof
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. I'M COM ING
HEY! SIT.

THESE DOGS TOOK A LIKING TO YOU RIGHT AWAY.
YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY STRANGE.
OH, I'M SORRY WAS I TOO LOUD?
WELL DONE.

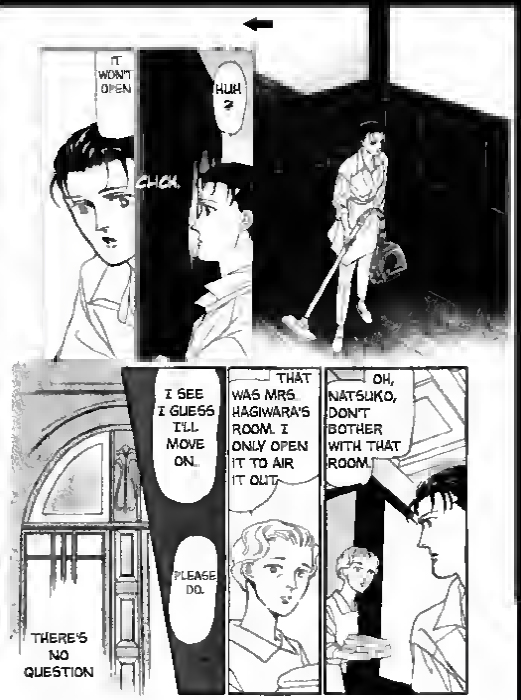
MS. KOIZUMI, I'VE BEEN THINKING I'M GOING TO STAY HERE FOR A MONTH SINCE THE ADVANCE. BUT I THINK IT'D BE BEST IF I GO AFTER THAT
TSK
I SAW HER PICTURE IN THE LIVING ROOM. DO WE REALLY LOOK THAT ALIKE?
THE DOGS ARE PROBABLY MAKING A MISTAKE/
THEY'RE GUARD DOGS SO THEY USUALLY DON'T LIKE STRANGERS.
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU CAME SO SOON AFTER HER DEATH
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU HAVE THE SAME FACE BUT
I UNDER-STAND
NEMA?
I CAN'T STAY HERE TOO LONG.
YES SIR


I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK INTO THIS NEW HOUSE KEEPER
HER NAME'S NATSUKO KIGUCHI
CONSIDER IT DONE, SIR.
MS NATSUKO, TAKE THIS TEA TO THE WEST ANNEX.
YES, MS KOIZUMI.
THE WEST ANNEX IS A LIBRARY THE TEA'S FOR THE LIBRARIAN WORKING THERE RIGHT NOW.

EXCUSE ME.
OH, I'M NEW HERE. MY NAME'S NATSUKO IGUCHI.
YOU'RE
I KNOW WE MET DURING THE FORTY NINTH DAY CEREMONY. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
MY NAME'S ARIMA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M THE LIBRARIAN. I'M ALSO COMPILING THE HISTORY OF THE HAGIWARA COMPANY
OH. HAVE YOU BEEN HERE LONG?
YEAH, I WAS HIRED BY MR. HAGIWARA SENIOR.
I KNEW MIOKO WELL.

SO, IT'S REALLY TRUE.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S BEEN REBORN
YOU SHOULD WEAR YOUR HAIR DOWN
MIOKO ALWAYS USED TO DO THAT
SHE WAS.
PL-PLEASE, LET GO!

OH!
SLAM
EXCUSE ME.
THAT MAN
SHIVER


IT WON'T OPEN
CHCH.
HUH?
OH, NATSUKO, DON'T BOTHER WITH THAT ROOM.
THAT WAS MRS. HAGIWARA'S ROOM. I ONLY OPEN IT TO AIR IT OUT.
I SEE I GUESS I'LL MOVE ON.
PLEASE DO.
THERE'S NO QUESTION

...SHE LIVED IN THIS HOUSE.
AND ALL THIS STRANGE BEHAVIOR I'M SEEING
IS SLOWLY...
...MAKING SENSE
MS. KOIZUMI, I FOUND THIS BARRETTE.
OH, THAT'S MRS. HAGIWARA'S. WHERE'D YOU FIND IT?
THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN ALONG WELL.
BUT HE ALWAYS TOOK TIME OUT TO CARE FOR HIS WIFE. SHE WAS RATHER FRAIL, YOU KNOW
IT WAS A PRESENT FROM MR. HAGIWARA. SHE WAS ALWAYS VERY FOND OF IT.
THE FLOWERS BECOME SO TOWN AND SPARSE.
MMM. MR. HAGIWARA WAS VERY BUSY...

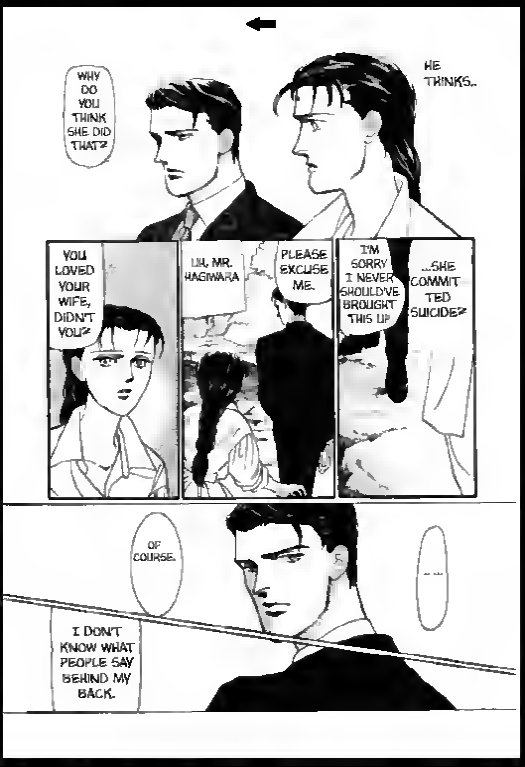
THEN, WHAT?
SHE FINALLY GOT PREGNANT, BUT THEN...
DURING THE AUTOPSY, THEY FOUND OUT MRS. HAGIWARA WAS TWO MONTHS ALONG.
...NEVER TELL MR. HAGIWARA I TOLD YOU THIS
OH MY! WHAT EVER YOU DO...
WHAT ABOUT MRS HAGIWARA'S CHILD?
SHE MUST NOT HAVE KNOWN THE NEWS WAS AFTER ALL, A TERRIBLE SHOCK TO MR HAGIWARA
CHRP CHRP CHRP

THIS LAKE.
IT'S VERY CLOSE TO THE ANNEX.
RUSTLE
WHA

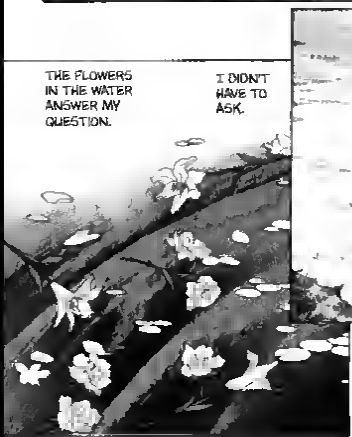
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT I'M BETTER THAN SHE IS!!
WAIT A SECOND!
IT'S YOU. GOOD MORNING, MS AKAI.
.....
OH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT LOOKING LIKE MY WIFE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY
BELIEVE ME, YOU LOOK LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
MY WIFE HARDLY EVER WORE WESTERN CLOTHING AND NEVER RAN WITH THE DOGS.
BUT THIS IS WHERE...

WHOOSH
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THIS IS WHERE MY WIFE DIED
THOSE FLOWERS...
SHE USED TO COME HERE AND GAZE AT HER REFLECTION IN THE WATER. MAYBE THAT REFLECTION PULLED HER IN.

AS SHE REACHED FOR AN IRIS AT THE WATER'S EDGE, SHE LOST HER FOOTING.
ONE EVENING SHE CAME OUT HERE TO PICK SOME FLOWERS
NO ONE HEARD HER CRIES FOR HELP.
HER VOICE WAS TOO QUIET
THAT DAY SHE HAD ON A LONG-SLEEVED KIMONO THAT SHE USED TO WEAR BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED.


WHY DO YOU THINK SHE DID THAT?
HE THINKS..
YOU LOVED YOUR WIFE, DIDN'T YOU?
UH, MR. HAGIWARA
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
I'M SORRY I NEVER SHOULDVE BROUGHT THIS UP
...SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE?
OF COURSE.
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE SAY BEHIND MY BACK.

TO MARRY JUST FOR MONEY
BUT I'M NOT A STRONG ENOUGH PERSON.


THE FLOWERS IN THE WATER ANSWER MY QUESTION.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO ASK.

I'M A FOOL.

THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS NATSUKO HIGUCHI. EVEN THE RECOMMENDATION WAS GENUINE.
Slam!
ALL THE COMPANY INFIGHTING WAS MADE ME PARANOID.
I'VE STARTED TO DOUBT EVERYTHING.
SHE'S NOT RELATED TO THE HAGIWARA FAMILY.
SHE WASN'T SENT BY ANY COMPANY ENEMIES
.. I'M SO TIRED.
MIOKO.

HONK! HONK!
DOING SOME SHOPPING?
NATSUKO!
HA RU KI.
I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME THING
IF YOU'VE GOT SOME TIME, WANNA GO FOR A CUP OF COFFEE?
THE KEY TO MY TRUNK BROKE.
WHAT'S THAT? A KEY?
OH, THANKS
HERE YOU ARE, MISS.
DO YOU KNOW MR ARIMA?
UM

HE CRAWLED OUT FROM SOME UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT. MIOKO'S FATHER HIRED HIM.
YEAH WHAT A CREEP
I'LL BET YOU AGREE WITH ME, NATSUKO.
THIS GUY'S
HUH?
HE'S NOT MY TYPE AT ALL.
SHE ASKED ME ABOUT ARIMA, TOO
IT'S CRAZY, I FEEL LIKE I'M SITTING ACROSS FROM MIOKO
IT'S TAKAYA I FIND ATTRACTIVE.
IT'S LIKE DEJA VU.
SHE DID?

I TOLD HER TO BE CAREFUL OF HIM.
I'LL TELL YOU THE SAME THING, NATSUKO. BE CAREFUL.
YEAH!
YOU SEE, I HAP PENED TO SEE ARIMA MEETING WITH TAKAYA'S COMPANY RIVALS.

WHAT THE..?
MR. ARIMA

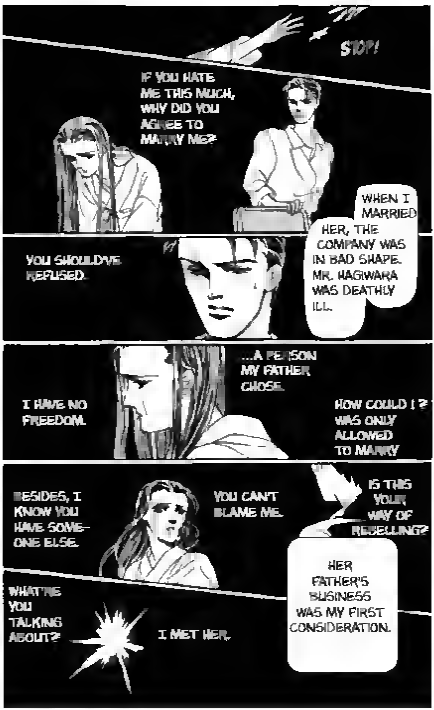
I'M TIRED AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ALONE
WELCOME HOME, SIR.
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
OH IT'S LATE. YOU SHOULD GO TO BED.
SCREECH!

TINKLE
CLINK
THAT ROOM IS...!

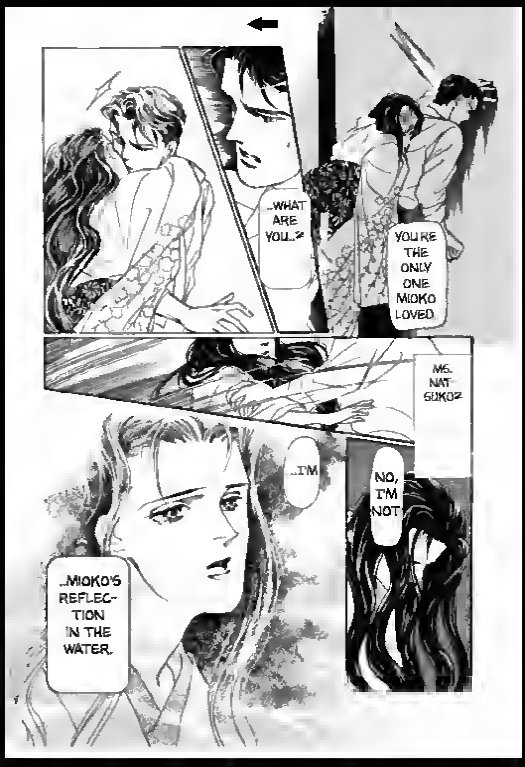
MIO

SLAM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE MIOKO AGAIN
YOU DO TOO, DON'T YOU?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? STOP THIS CRUEL JOKE.
YOU'RE NOT MIOKO
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I LED HER TO HER DEATH
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY CHILD
NO MS. MIOKO DIDN'T
SHE WAS PREG-NANT
I'VE NEVER LAID A FINGER ON HER.


STOP!
IF YOU HATE ME THIS MUCH, WHY DID YOU AGREE TO MARRY ME?
WHEN I MARRIED HER, THE COMPANY WAS IN BAD SHAPE. MR. HAGIWARA WAS DEATHLY ILL.
YOU SHOULDVE REFUSED.
...A PERSON MY FATHER CHOSE.
I HAVE NO FREEDOM.
HOW COULD I? I WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO MARRY
BESIDES, I KNOW YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME.
IS THIS YOUR WAY OF REBELLING?
HER FATHER'S BUSINESS WAS MY FIRST CONSIDERATION.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I MET HER.

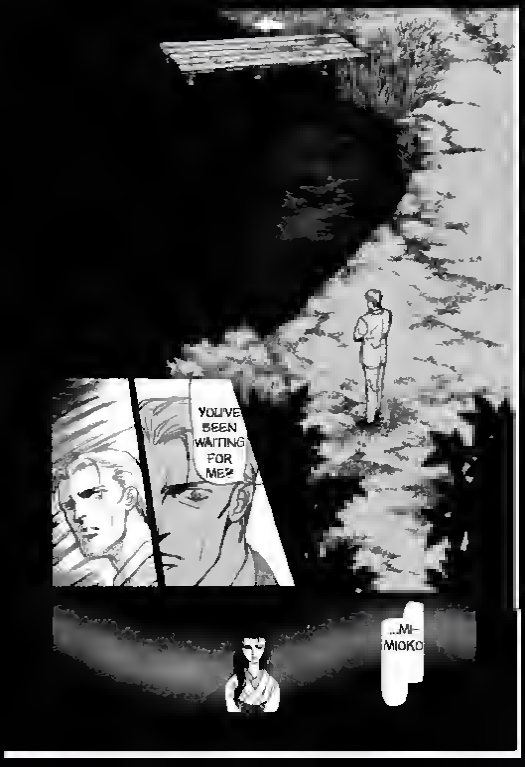
BUT I WON'T FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING.
YOU NEVER BELIEVE ME, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
I THOUGHT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME WITH MIOKO. AARGH! THAT WE COULD RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS GRADUALLY
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH HER BEFORE OR EVEN AFTER WE GOT MARRIED. YAAAA!
I CORNERED HER.
WHEN I VISITED THIS HOUSE ON BUSINESS A LONG TIME AGO
I LOVED HER FROM THEN ON.
...SHE WAS LOOKING AT ME THROUGH SOME FLOWERS.
THAT SHE HAD SOMEONE ELSE
IF I COULD HAVE NOTICED MUCH EARLIER


..WHAT ARE YOU..?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE MIOKO LOVED.
MS. NATSUKO?
..I'M
NO, I'M NOT.
..MIOKO'S REFLECTION IN THE WATER.

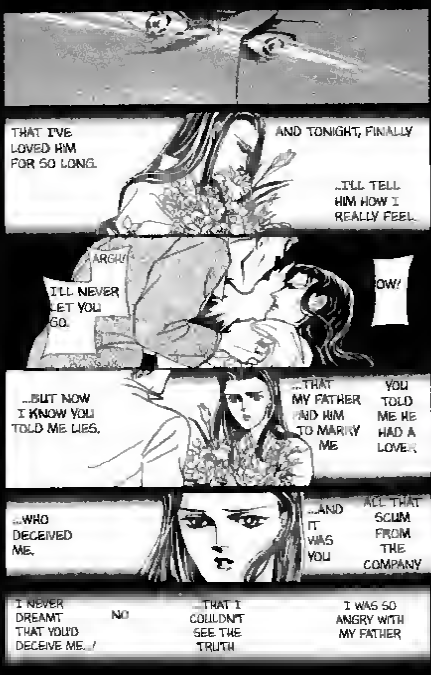
SO...
...I KNOW WHAT MIOKO'S THINKING
IF YOU STILL LOVE HER

..WHAT A FOOL I AM.
I CAN'T REGRET ANYTHING NOW.
I THOUGHT I COULD REALLY BE HER.
BUT IT'S TOO HARD I'M ACTUALLY ATTRACTED TO HIM.

HE'S COMING.
I'D BETTER GO.
MATSUKO?
GASP!
SLAM


YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME?
...MI-MIOKO

THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT-- WHA-- YOU'RE MOKO AREN'T YOU?
THE TORN FLOWER WAS ON THE FLOOR IN THE ANNEX WHERE IT WAS RIPPED, RIGHT?
AND THE BARRETTE, I ASSUME?
I SEE YOU FOUND MY LETTER.
AH...
MIOKO.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
YOU SEE THIS KIMONO... LIKE WHAT I WAS WEARING THAT EVENING...
A LONG-SLEEVED KIMONO?
SO I CAN REMEMBER WHAT I FELT LIKE BEFORE I WAS MARRIED...
...BEFORE YOU MADE ME LIVE A LIE/


THAT I'VE LOVED HIM FOR SO LONG.
AND TONIGHT, FINALLY ...I'LL TELL HIM HOW I REALLY FEEL.
ARGH!
I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO.
...BUT NOW I KNOW YOU TOLD ME LIES.
...THAT MY FATHER AND HIM TO MARRY ME
YOU TOLD ME HE HAD A LOVER.
...WHO DECEIVED ME.
...AND IT WAS YOU
ALL THAT SCUM FROM THE COMPANY
I NEVER DREAMT THAT YOU'D DECEIVE ME...!
NO
...THAT I COULDN'T SEE THE TRUTH
I WAS SO ANGRY WITH MY FATHER

I ALWAYS LOVED YOU. THAT'S WHY
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.
...I'D DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HIM FORGIVE ME.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME.
YOU BELONG TO ME!
P-PLEASE S-STOP!

BEFORE YOU COULD CRY OUT YOUD FALLEN IN
BUT YOU DROWNED, I'M SURE OF IT
..WITH THE FLOWERS.
ARGH! SO IT'S TRUE..!
..IT WAS YOU.. WHO KILLED ..MY SISTER

STOP!
LET GO OF HER!
TAKA
NATSUKO!
OOH
UUH
MIOKO!

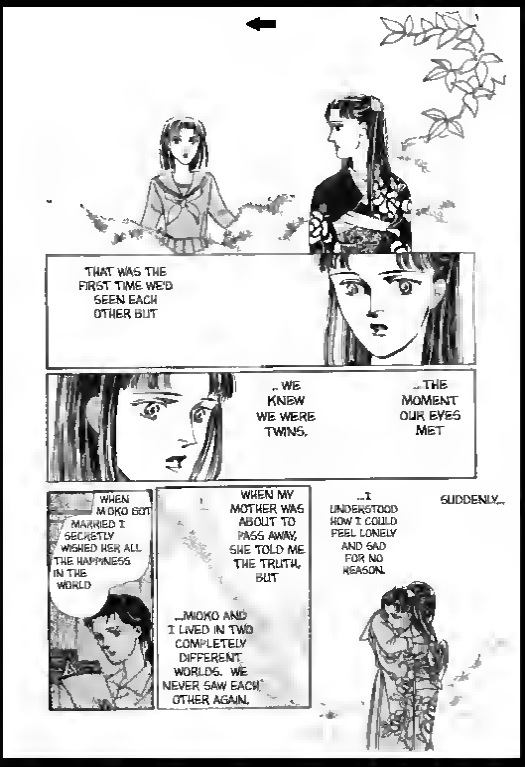
PLUNGE

I'M.
MIDKO'S TWIN SISTER
DON'T LOOK

NATSUKO
I CAME HERE TO FIND THE TRUTH ABOUT MY SISTER'S DEATH.
TO GET A SENSE OF CLOSURE.
EVERYTHING'S OVER.
THE POLICE HAVE LEFT.

NO
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN RIGHT NOW
I'LL HEAR YOUR STORY AFTER YOU WAKE UP.
YOU'D BETTER REST NOW..
NOBODY KNEW ABOUT MOKO AND ME
...EXCEPT OUR REAL MOTHER.
THE LATE MRS. HAGIWARA WAS NOT OUR REAL MOTHER.
SHE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN, SO MR. HAGIWARA HAD ANOTHER WOMAN BEAR HIS CHILDREN.

WE WERE NEVER RICH BUT WITH HELP FROM MY MOTHER'S FAMILY, I HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD
SHE LEFT MY SISTER WITH THE HAGIWARAS AND TOOK ME BACK TO HER HOME TOWN.
THAT WOMAN WAS OUR MOTHER.
...I NEVER KNEW I HAD A TWIN SISTER.
OF COURSE
...RAN INTO MIOKO BY THE TEA HOUSE.
I GOT LOST IN THE TEMPLE GARDENS AND
UNTIL ONE DAY, WHEN I CAME HERE ON A HIGH SCHOOL FIELD TRIP


THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE'D SEEN EACH OTHER BUT
.. WE KNEW WE WERE TWINS.
..THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET
WHEN MOKO GOT MARRIED I SECRETLY WISHED HER ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD
WHEN MY MOTHER WAS ABOUT TO PASS AWAY, SHE TOLD ME THE TRUTH, BUT
..MOKO AND I LIVED IN TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLDS. WE NEVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN.
..I UNDERSTOOD HOW I COULD FEEL LONELY AND SAD FOR NO REASON.
SUDDENLY..

BUT ON THE DAY SHE DROWNED
...I FELT COLD
I CRIED ALL NIGHT.
I KNEW THAT
MIOKO HAD DIED

I COULD HEAR HER CRIES FOR HELP.
...I'M SORRY...
SHE WAS CALLING FOR YOU.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT MIOKO LOVED YOU.

CREAK
I'M SORRY FOR LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE.
BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER
BE QUIET YOU'LL WAKE EVERYONE UP!
PANT/ PANT/
HEY!
WOO!
BECAUSE I...

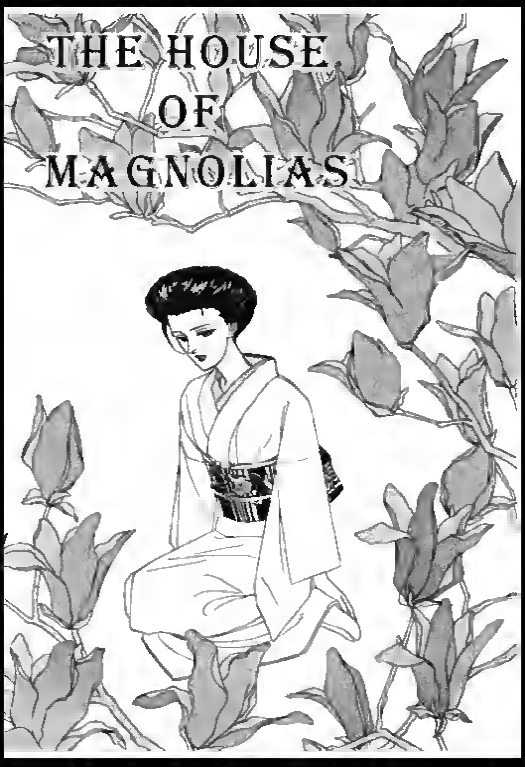
IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S HARD TO LEAVE.
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME THING
I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING
ABOUT LAST NIGHT
WERE YOU NOT ATTRACTED TO ME AT ALL?
WAS IT REALLY ONLY FOR MIOKO?

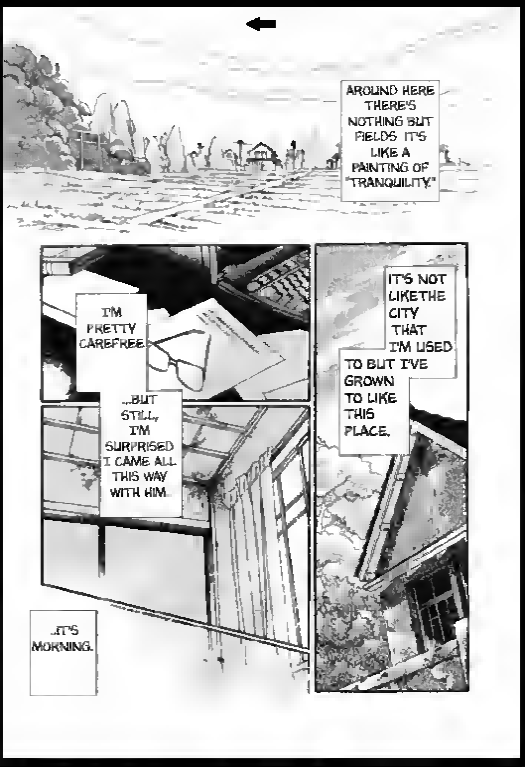
YOU LOOK LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
DIDN'T I ... TELL YOU BEFORE?
IF YOU REALLY KNOW HOW MIOKO FEELS
WOULD SHE SAY, IF I SAY I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY?
..WELL SHE WOULD PROBABLY....

...RETURN MY SMILE FROM THE WATER.

END OF THE DEVIL IN THE WATER.

THE HOUSE OF MAGNOLIAS




AROUND HERE THERE'S NOTHING BUT FIELDS. IT'S LIKE A PAINTING OF "TRANQUILITY."
I'M PRETTY CAREFREE.
...BUT STILL, I'M SURPRISED I CAME ALL THIS WAY WITH HIM.
IT'S NOT LIKE THE CITY THAT I'M USED TO. BUT I'VE GROWN TO LIKE THIS PLACE.
...IT'S MORNING.

MMM.
I'M EVER SO KIND NOT TO WAKE HIM UP.
IT'S NICE SITTING NEXT TO HIM, WATCHING HIS SLEEPING FACE.
I CAN'T SAY HE GETS UP EARLY FOR WORK.
OF COURSE, I DON'T GET UP TOO EARLY, EITHER.
..OH YOU'RE AWAKE?
BUT I WANT HIM TO GET UP BEFORE I STARVE TO DEATH.

GOOD MORNING, EME.
DREAM...
GOOD MORNING, DARLING
"SIGH" A NEW DAY'S BEGUN AGAIN
CLUNK...
I KNOW WAIT A SEC.
I'M HUNGRY.

THIS RENTAL IS A TYPICAL OLD-FASHIONED JAPANESE HOUSE, BUILT BEFORE THE SECOND WAR.
SOON THE FLOWERS WILL BLOSSOM.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SPRING OUTSIDE.
THERE'S A MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIA IN THE GARDEN.
SO EVERYONE AROUND HERE CALLS IT THE "HOUSE OF MAGNOLIAS."
I'VE NEVER SEEN SPRING IN THIS PLACE. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE FLOWERS.

SHE WAS HERE LONG BEFORE WE CAME.
SHE ALSO LIVES HERE.
HERE SHE COMES.
...I GUESS YOU'D CALL HER ...A GHOST BECAUSE THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
BUT HE CAN'T SEE HER.
NO!

IT'S NOT LIKE I SEE HER EVERYDAY, MIND YOU.
SHE'S LIKE A REFLECTION OF THE LIFE THAT USED TO FILL THIS OLD BUILDING LONG AGO.
JUDGING FROM HER CLOTHES AND MANNERISMS, I CAN TELL SHE'S NOT FROM THIS TIME.
BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW.

I'VE NEVER SPOKEN WITH HER
BECAUSE SHE'S NEVER ONCE TRIED TO INTERFERE WITH OUR LIVES
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A WRITER, I SOMETIMES THINK HE'S A BIT DIM.
RING RING
?
SOMETIMES HE GETS THE FEELING THERE'S A WOMAN IN THE HOUSE BUT
...IT'S JUST A FEEL-ING.

HEY, ASAI
HELLO, SHINOHARA HERE.
CLICK
WHAT?
I'M STILL WORKING ON THE MANU-SCRIPT BUT DON'T WORRY
I HEARD ASAI SAY ONCE THAT HE'S AFRAID OF CATS. HOW RUDE.
THAT'S HIS FRIEND AND EDITOR.
KYOKO CAME TO SEE ME.
SHE ASKED ME WHERE YOU WENT TO.

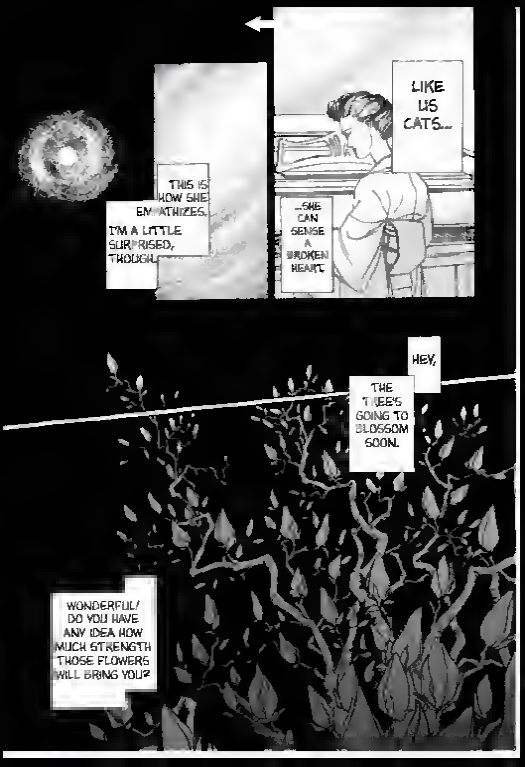
I DON'T WANNA SEE HER RIGHT NOW, OR ANYBODY!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU COULDN'T COME BACK. LOOK, YOU KNOW SHE GOT MARRIED BECAUSE
FUMIAKI
I LEFT HER FIVE YEARS AGO
I DIDN'T BUT SHE TOLD ME YOU HAVEN'T CALLED HER SINCE YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN.
DON'T TELL HER.
PLEASE, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
ASA, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATED ALL THE PRESS INTERVIEWS AND VISITORS WHEN I GOT BACK.
SLAM!
I FIRST SAW HIM

WHEN HE WAS BONE TIRED AND WORLD-WEARY
EME.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD A PHONE INSTALLED
I'M STILL NOT READY
I WOULDN'T HAVE STAYED WITH HIM IF HE'D BEEN JUST ANY OLD GUY
THAT'S RIGHT

I CAME HERE TO BE ALONE
IF MY MOTHER HADN'T STOPPED ME, I WOULDVE GONE ABROAD AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAKING YOUSO SAD...
BUT I CANSEE YOUVE BEEN WOUND-ED
ALL WOUND S HEAL
HUH ?

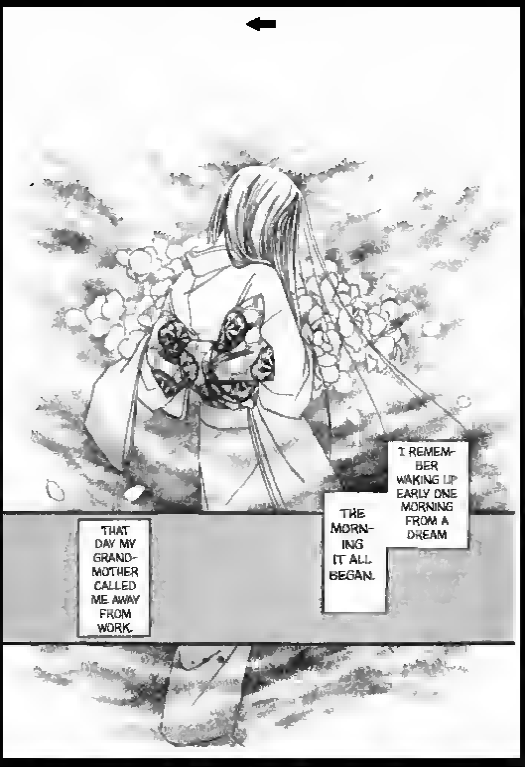
IT'S STRANGE FOR US TO MAKE EYE CONTACT LIKE THAT.
IT'S TOO BAD HE CAN'T SEE

A PIANO?
WHERE'S THAT MUSIC COMING FROM? IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S PLAYING INSIDE THIS HOUSE.
SOMEONE IS.
SHE'S PLAYING. I GUESS THERE USED TO BE A PIANO IN HERE.
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL TUNE.


LIKE US CATS...
...SHE CAN SENSE A BROKEN HEART.
THIS IS HOW SHE EMPATHIZES. I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED, THOUGH.
HEY,
THE TREE'S GOING TO BLOSSOM SOON.
WONDERFUL! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH STRENGTH THOSE FLOWERS WILL BRING YOU?

END OF THE HOUSE OF MAGNOLIAS.

TAKING THE COLOR OF FLOWERS


I REMEMBER WAKING UP EARLY ONE MORNING FROM A DREAM
THE MORNING IT ALL BEGAN.
THAT DAY MY GRANDMOTHER CALLED ME AWAY FROM WORK.

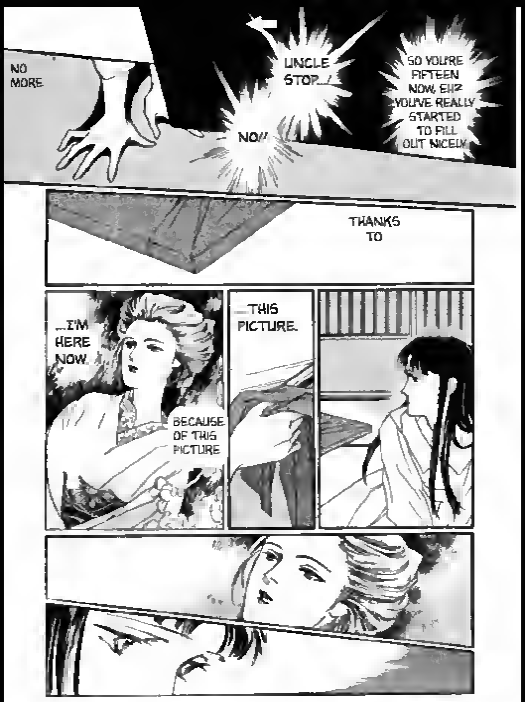
SCREECH
IS THAT YOU, KEISHIRO?
SLAM
GRANDMOTHER, YOU KEEP PULLING ME AWAY FROM WORK!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THE SHOP WON'T GO BANKRUPT IF YOU STEP OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
ANYHOW, THE YOUNG LADY'S HERE WITH OUR LAWYER, MR. KASHIWAGI.
THEY'RE WAITING IN THE LIVING ROOM.

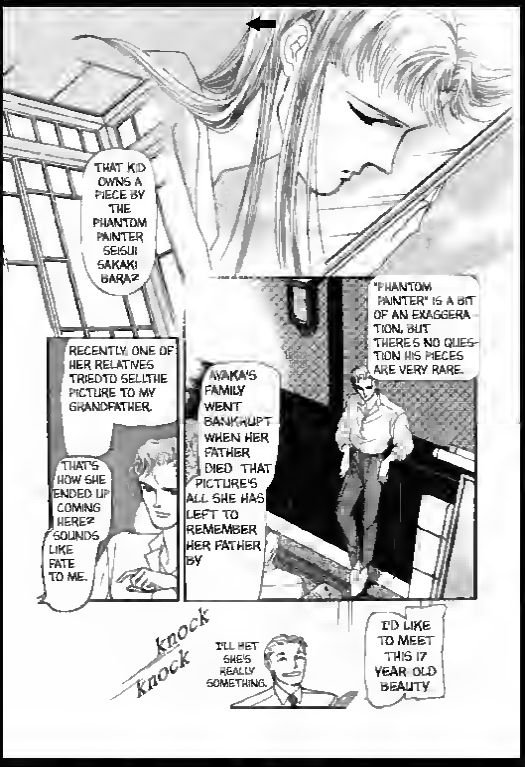
HELLO KEISHIRO
CLICK
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MR. KASHIWAGI.
I USED TO LIVE WITH MY GRAND-PARENTS IN THIS HOUSE BUT
...MY GRANDFATHER, SENTARO NISHINA, PASSED AWAY RECENTLY. WE JUST HAD HIS FORTY-NINTH DAY CEREMONY.

YES, I'VE SPOKEN WITH HER SHE'S A VERY NICE GIRL.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, GRANDMOTHER?
MY GRANDFATHER WAS FAMOUS IN THESE PARTS FOR HIS STUDY AND COLLECTION OF MODERN JAPANESE PAINTING. NOW I'M TAKING OVER HIS BUSINESS.
JUST BEFORE MY GRANDFATHER DIED HE DECIDED TO TAKE IN A YOUNG ORPHAN GIRL.
HER PARENTS DIED WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE. SHE'S BEEN SHUFFLED AROUND BY RELATIVES EVER SINCE.
THE DECISION REALLY SURPRISED ME.
I THINK...
WELL KEISHIRO...
DO YOU LIKE ART KEISHIRO?
YEAH.
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD YOUR GRANDFATHER BEST
...WE SHOULD RESPECT GRANDFATHER'S WISHES.

NO, I ONLY LIKE LOOKING AT ART LIKE YOU, GRANDPA
WELL, DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PAINT?
I WAS ALWAYS GRAND-FATHER'S FAVORITE.
HE THOUGHT I WAS JUST LIKE HIS ARTIST BROTHER, THE ONE WHO DISAPPEARED IN MANCHURIA.
I SEE IT'S JUST YOU REMIND ME OF SEIJIRO
...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BECOME A PAINTER LIKE HIM.
IS THIS ALL YOUR LUG-GAGE?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT SEEMED SO NATURAL FOR ME TO TAKE OVER HIS BUSINESS.
KEISHIRO, HURRY UP AND BRING THOSE THINGS INSIDE.
I'M HER GRAND-SON.
YOUR NAME'S AYAKA ELLIE, RIGHT? NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M KEISHIRO NISHINA.
UM... THAT'S OKAY
HAND ME THAT, TOO. I'LL CARRY IT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK ME.
A BIG ROOM.
IT'S LIKE A DREAM.
EVERYONE'S SO NICE.
I WONDER IF I CAN STAY HERE FOREVER.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO EAT!
HMPH! HOWD WE GET STUCK WITH THIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING GIRL?


NO MORE
UNCLE STOP...!
NO!!
SO YOU'RE FIFTEEN NOW, EH? YOU'VE REALLY STARTED TO FILL OUT NICELY.
THANKS TO
...I'M HERE NOW.
BECAUSE OF THIS PICTURE
...THIS PICTURE.

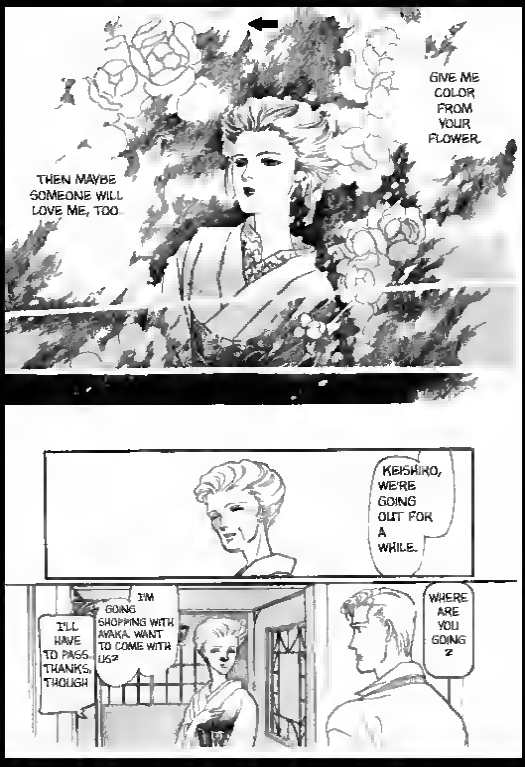

THAT KID OWNS A PIECE BY THE PHANTOM PAINTER SEIGUI SAKAKI BARA?
"PHANTOM PAINTER" IS A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION, BUT THERE'S NO QUESTION HIS PIECES ARE VERY RARE.
AYAKA'S FAMILY WENT BANKRUPT WHEN HER FATHER DIED. THAT PICTURE'S ALL SHE HAS LEFT TO REMEMBER HER FATHER BY
RECENTLY, ONE OF HER RELATIVES TRIEDTO SELLTHE PICTURE TO MY GRANDFATHER.
THAT'S HOW SHE ENDED UP COMING HERE? SOUNDS LIKE FATE TO ME.
knock knock
I'LL BET SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING.
I'D LIKE TO MEET THIS 17 YEAR OLD BEAUTY

AYAKA, THIS IS MR.NISHIZAKI, MY ASSISTANT.
HELLO
NICE TO MEET YOU.
AND HERE SHE IS.
UM I BROUGHT TEA.
YES ...
AND THERE'S SO MUCH HERE.
SO DO YOU LIKE ART?
OF COURSE! HE WAS MY GRANDFATHER'S BROTHER SO WE HAVE THE LARGEST COLLECTION THERE IS.
REALLY?
UM ARE THERE ANY PAINTINGS BY SEISUI SAKAKIBARA...?
WERE PREPARING AN EXHIBITION OF MY GRANDFATHER'S ART FOR HIS MEMORIAL.

THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! IT'S JUST HIS NAME'S DIFFERENT...
GIVE ME A BREAK. I'M NO GENIUS PAINTER! I JUST LOOK LIKE HIM, THAT'S ALL
THEY SAY KEISUKE IS THE REINCARNATION OF SEIGU SAKAKIBARA. WHAT A FUNCHA KICKS.
A NEW FAMILY ADOPTED HIM RIGHT AFTER HE WAS BORN. BUT MY GRANDFATHER STAYED IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
BUT YOU'RE IN THE BUSINESS, AREN'T YOU?
HIS REAL NAME WAS SEIJIRO
LOOK, THESE ARE SOME OF HIS PAINTINGS.
MY PAINTINGS NOT HERE

GASP!
YOU HAVE THE PRACTICE PAINTING, RIGHT? AND YOU WANT TO SEE THE FINISHED PIECE.
WH... WHAT DID I...
I LIKE HIS PAINTINGS OF WOMEN, TOO. THERE'S PROBABLY MORE AROUND SOMEWHERE. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK.
THE ONLY WOMEN HE PAINTED WERE HIS LOVERS, SO HE PAINTED THEM WITH LOVE. THEY'RE ALL BEAUTIFUL WORKS.
A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?? THAT'S GREAT
HIS PAINTINGS OF WOMEN ARE VERY RARE.
I'M SURE IT WAS A PICTURE OF A WOMAN.

SEIGII SAKAKIBARA.
BIRTH NAME: SEIJIRO
BORN 1909.
SAKAKIBARA WAS CONSIDERED A PROMISING PAINTER UNTIL
...HE SUDDENLY THREW DOWN HIS PAINTBRUSHES AND DISAPPEARED INTO MANCHURIA.
ONLY A FEW OF HIS WORKS CAN BE FOUND TODAY. YOU'RE SO FAITHFUL.
SEVERAL OF HIS MOST FAMOUS WORKS ARE PAINTINGS OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, EACH SAID TO HAVE BEEN HIS LOVER AT THE TIME.
HE PAINTED THEM WITH LOVE.
I LIKE HIS PAINTINGS OF WOMEN, TOO.
HE LOVED HER.
SHE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS A FLOWER
華の


GIVE ME COLOR FROM YOUR FLOWER.
THEN MAYBE SOMEONE WILL LOVE ME, TOO.
KEISHIRO, WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A WHILE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING SHOPPING WITH AYAKA. WANT TO COME WITH US?
I'LL HAVE TO PASS. THANKS, THOUGH.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE CHEERED UP A BIT.
DON'T WORRY.
JUST TAKE IT EASY WHENEVER SHE GOES OUT SHE BECOMES SO ENERGETIC FOR HER AGE.
THAT'S TOO BAD...
YOU MUST BE AYAKA.
HELLO.
I'M TAKING THE YOUNG LADY SHOPPING.
THIS IS KEISHIRO'S SISTER-IN-LAW KIKUKO.
KIKUKO!
GRANDMOTHER, ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YES, I BROUGHT SOME PICTURES OF ELIGIBLE WOMEN
I GUESS YOU'RE HERE TO SEE KEISHIRO.

THESE ARE THE ONES YOUR FATHER PICKED
THESE YOUR MOTHER CHOSE.
AND HERE ARE A FEW LADIES FROM MY HUSBAND'S COMPANY
WHAT MY BROTHER SENT SOME TOO?
DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
IT'S JUST THAT EVERYONE IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
I WAS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED ONCE.
I'M SORRY.
LOOK, WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO HELP
BUT SHE DIED IN A PLANE CRASH THREE YEARS AGO.
JUST THINK ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.

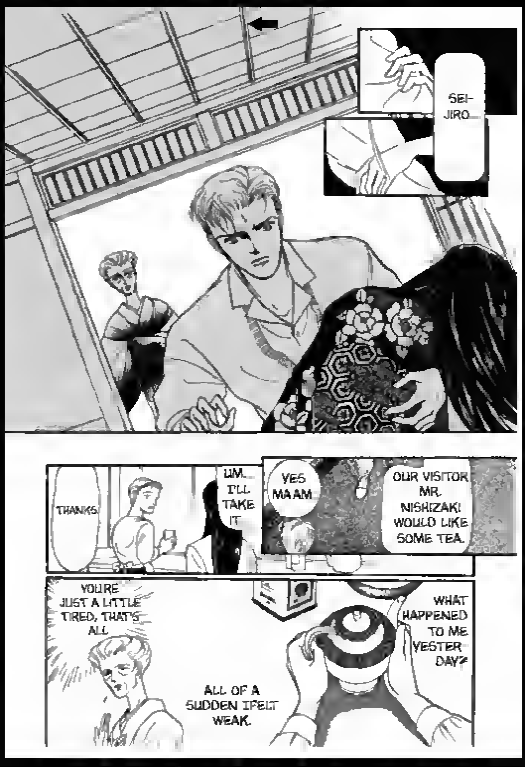
AYAKA!
IS THAT YOU, AYAKA?
UN-UNCLE...
IMAGINE BUMPING INTO YOU HERE. HMM.. YOU'RE WEARING SOME PRETTY CLOTHES.
AYEEE...
YOU'RE

I'LL BE SEEING YOU.
DAWN!
WHY_
NOTH-ING..
NO NOTHING'S WRONG.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT, AYAKA.
WHOA!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KEISHIRO?
IT LOOKS LIKE A DRESS SHOP IN HERE.
OKAY
THERE'S A FULL-LENGTH MIRROR OVER THERE. GO TAKE A LOOK.
IT REALLY SUITS HER.
WE WERE SHOPPING FOR KIMONOS 'TIL I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED KOTOKO'S OLD KIMONO
THERE. FINISHED
THAT'S AUNT KOTOKO'S?

IF ONLY I COULD BECOME ANOTHER PERSON...
...THEN TO...
I LOOK LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
SHOOS

EEEEEEK!
AYAKA!!
..I'M NOT AYAKA..
AYA ...
I.. AM KAE.
HAVE YOU FOR GOTTEN ME?


SEI-JIRO...
OUR VISITOR, MR. NISHIZAKI WOULD LIKE SOME TEA.
YES MA'AM.
UM... I'LL TAKE IT.
THANKS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME YESTERDAY?
ALL OF A SUDDEN I FELT WEAK.
YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE TIRED, THAT'S ALL.

IT MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
WHEN I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR WHAT WAS THAT WHITE SHADOW
DEFINITELY
RIGHT NOW KEISHIRO'S SEARCHING FOR THE FINISHED WORK BUT LOOK EVEN THIS SKETCH IS BEAUTIFUL.
AYAKA, WE FOUND ONE OF SEISUI'S SKETCHES
AH, THANK YOU.
HERE'S YOUR TEA, MR NISHIZAKI

THE KIMONO WAS DARK RED.
HUH?
IT'LL BE SHOWN IN THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
YOU SAID THIS PAINTING SHOULD BE FINISHED BY NOW. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOUR FATHER TOLD YOU SOMETHING
WH. WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
HUH?

WHAT?
I WONDER IF PEOPLE CAN GET POSS-ESSED
MR. NISHIZAKI, DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
OH, RIGHT
AYAKA, GRAND-MOTHER'S CALLING YOU.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
UH... I'M NOT REAL-LY THE ONE YOU SHOULD ASK ABOUT THAT
I WONDER...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HATE ME.
...WHAT HE'S THINKING.

SHE'S LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON?
YEAH, AND SHE CALLED HERSELF A DIFFERENT NAME.
APPARENTLY, A WHITE FOX JUMPED OUT AT HIM WHILE HE WAS WALKING IN FRONT OF THE INARI SHRINE.
IN MED SCHOOL, I REMEMBER A PATIENT CLAIMING TO HAVE GOTTEN POSSESSED BY A FOX'S SPIRIT
I DON'T KNOW BUT IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED THAT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO ME.
DO YOU THINK A PERSON CAN GET POSSESSED BY A GHOST?
BUT I DO KNOW ONLY PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN FOXES' SPIRITS CAN GET POSSESSED BY THEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
COULD BE. TEENAGE GIRLS SEE LOTS OF THINGS ON TV... OR IN HORROR COMICS.
SO YOU THINK IT'S HER IMAGINATION?

BUT SHE'S PROBABLY SUFFERING FROM SOME FORM OF PSYCHO-LOGICAL DAMAGE.
IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, I'LL EXAMINE HER.
HMM.
THE REAL CAUSE
MAYBE THAT'S WHY SHE CAME TO OUR HOME.
I AM KAE.
THAT WAS THE NAME OF SELIROS MODEL WHO WAS HIS LOVER.
KASHIWAGI LAW OFFICES
SORRY TO DROP IN LIKE THIS
NO PROBLEM.
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME THING

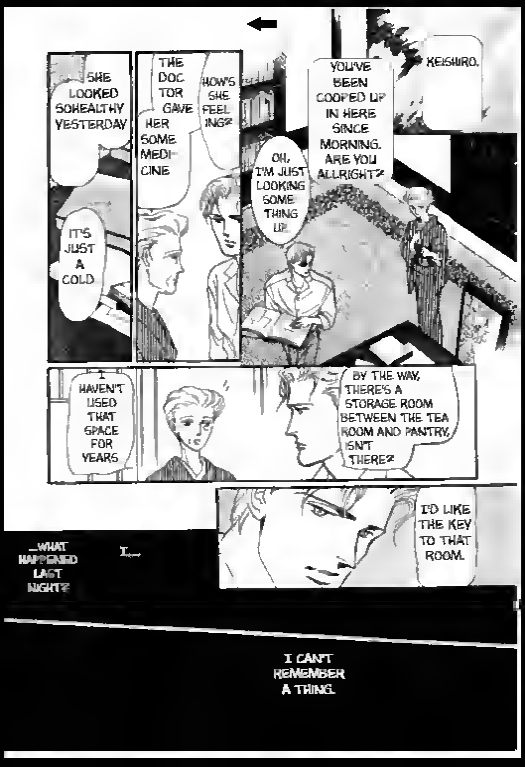
SQUEAK
MMM...
BLINK

AYAKA
AYAKA

I'M NOT AYAKA.
I'M SURE YOU'LL REMEMBER ME ONCE YOU FIND THE PICTURE.
HURRY UP AND FIND IT, THE LAST PICTURE YOU PAINTED OF ME!
I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE ME.
...AYAKA .../ STOP THIS NOW.
WHY?

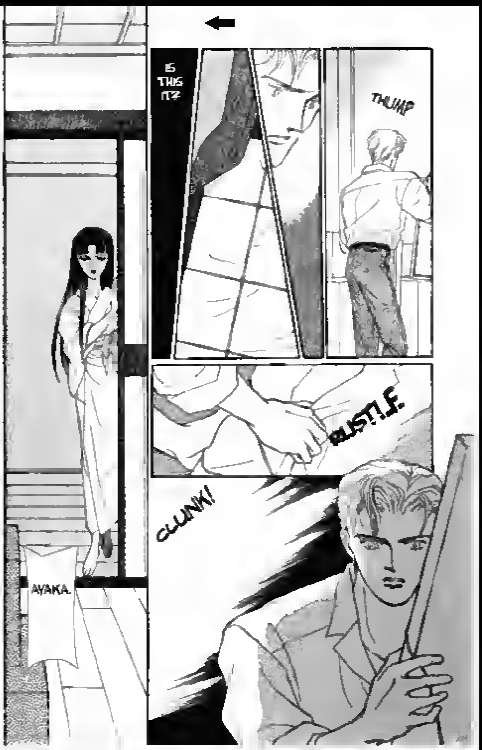
YOU KNOW, THAT THE OTHER WOMAN IS ALREADY DEAD.
I KILLED HER.
SLAP!

HOW COULD SHE KNOW ABOUT THE ACCIDENT?
UHH
...!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE TOLD HER.
KEI-SHIRO?
THAT MUST BE IT.
WHAT HAVE I
AYAKA, THIS ISN'T
WHISH
AYAKA /


KEISHIRO.
YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP IN HERE SINCE MORNING. ARE YOU ALLRIGHT?
OH, I'M JUST LOOKING SOME THING UP.
HOW'S SHE FEELING?
THE DOCTOR GAVE HER SOME MEDICINE
SHE LOOKED SOHEALTHY YESTERDAY
IT'S JUST A COLD.
BY THE WAY, THERE'S A STORAGE ROOM BETWEEN THE TEA ROOM AND PANTRY, ISN'T THERE?
I HAVEN'T USED THAT SPACE FOR YEARS
I'D LIKE THE KEY TO THAT ROOM.
...WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
I...
I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.

LATELY, I FEEL STRANGE.
I WONDER IF I'M SICK.
THEY WON'T LET ME STAY HERE ANY-MORE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'LL BE SEEING YOU.
SOMEBODY...
...HELP ME.

SEIJI SAKAKIBARA WAS ENGAGED TO A WOMAN
THEN HIS FIANCÉE DIED.
THIS WAS SHORTLY AFTER HE MET KAE.
I KILLED HER.
MY GOD!


IS THIS IT?
THUMP
RUSTLE
CLUNK!
AYAKA.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT
IF YOU FINISH THE PAINTING WE CAN BE TOGETHER, JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED
I SEE YOU FINALLY FOUND MY PICTURE.
IT'S THE PICTURE FROM THE SKETCH, ISN'T IT?
THE BACK GROUND IS BUSH CLOVER, RIGHT?

YOU'RE AYAKA FUJIE. YOU'RE NOT KAE!
I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND LIKE I'M LIKE HER.
IF THAT PHONE CALL TURNS OUT TO BE A REAL THREAT
I'LL DO EVERY THING IN MY POWER.
I'LL DO WHAT EVER I CAN TO HELP

RIP!
THIS IS MY PICTURE!
AIEEEEE...!
AYAKA?

DECADES AGO...
...BEFORE HE PUT HIS BRUSHES DOWN FOREVER, HE PAINTED THIS FINAL
...CURSE.
AND HERE'S A LETTER I FOUND WITH IT, WRITTEN BY MY GRANDFATHER...

WE WERE LATER TOLD SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
THEN HIS FIANCEE DIED OF AN ILLNESS. (SHE WAS ALWAYS FRAIL)
BUT HE'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, KAE.
SEIJIRO HAD AN ARRANGED ENGAGE-MENT
...THAT I WAS THE ONE YOU REALLY NEEDED
I, JUST TOLD HER ABOUT US
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?
YOU MET WITH HER JUST BEFORE SHE DIED, DIDN'T YOU?
WHILE HE WAS AWAY, KAE GOT SICK AND DIED.
MY BROTHER RAN TO MANCHURIA.
DIDN'T YOU WISH SHE'D DIE, TOO?
SEIJIRO.
SENTARO, I CAN NEVER PAINT AGAIN.
I'M TRYING BUT... I CAN'T.

...THE PICTURE HE CURSED HIMSELF WITH.
THIS WAS
WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHERE SEIJIRO WENT.
KEISHIRO!
I CAN'T FIND AYAKA.
SHE'S NOT IN HER ROOM.
WHAT?
SHE'S NOT IN THE HOUSE! OH NO! SHE'S OUT SIDE.

AYA
AYA
--
IS SHE STILL
KEISHIRO.
WHEW...
I WANTED BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON
COME WITH ME. YOU'VE STILL GOT A FEVER

A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT I WANTED TO BE THE WOMAN IN THAT PAINTING.
IT'S TRUE.
THAT'S WHY..
..I'VE BEEN ACTING SO STRANGE.
I DON'T BELONG IN YOUR HOUSE.
CAREFUL!
..I JUST WANTED TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL..

WHAT, YOU WANNA GO TO SCHOOL?
I... ASKED MY UNCLE
SO ...
HE SAID IF I DID WHAT HE SAID HE'D LET ME GO TO HIGH SCHOOL
IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, YOU'LL KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
...SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR A WHILE...
SO I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL, BUT ...
MR. NISHINA DIDN'T BRING HER TO YOUR HOUSE EARLIER BECAUSE
SHE WAS IN BAD SHAPE.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION, AMONG OTHER PROBLEMS.
YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS PEOPLE HAVE DONE TO YOU.

LET'S GO BACK HOME. GRAND-MOTHER IS WAITING FOR US.
AYAKA'S STRANGE CONDITION NEVER OCCURRED AGAIN
WHEN I LOOK BACK AT IT ALL, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS A FIGMENT OF A TROUBLED GIRL'S IMAGINATION OR
...A REMNANT OF THE PASSION OF THAT WOMAN FROM THE PAST.

END OF TAKING THE COLOR OF FLOWERS

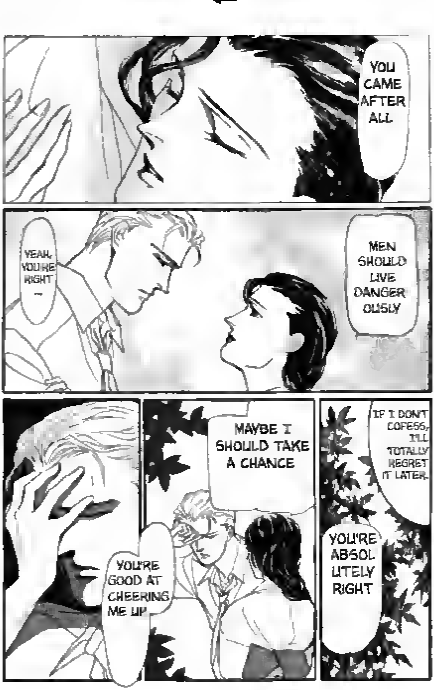
IN THE DEPTH
OF SUMMER

CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
WITHOUT MY NOTICING, EVERYTHING'S TURNED DEEP GREEN.
THAT'S RIGHT
CHIRP!

...I'LL HAVE TO GO
CHIRP CHIRP!!
...BEFORE THE SUMMER IS OVER...
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
BUT WHERE?
WHERE SHOULD I GO?
CHIRP!

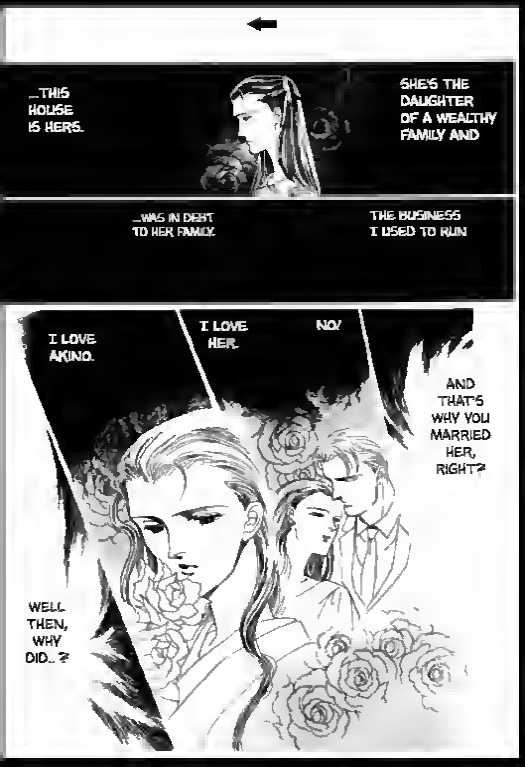
DARLING!

DARLING.
CLANG!


YOU CAME AFTER ALL
MEN SHOULD LIVE DANGEROUSLY
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE A CHANCE
IF I DON'T CONFESS, I'LL TOTALLY REGRET IT LATER.
YOU'RE GOOD AT CHEERING ME UP
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT

I'VE BEEN GETTING HEADACHES LATELY
IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'RE PROBABLY EXHAUSTED YOU WALKED FROM THE STATION AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
LET'S GO INSIDE.
THEY SAY AUTUMN COMES EARLIER HERE BUT GOSH, THE AFTERNOONS ARE STILL SO HOT! YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED THE SUGANOS TO PICK YOU UP.
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU JUST LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.

AKINO, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING LATELY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TAKE A LOOK.
SHE GETS TIRED EASILY, SO NOW SHE LIVES UP IN THIS MOUNTAIN RESORT.
...MY WIFE'S HEALTH IS FRAGILE.
MMM. YOU LOOK GREAT.


...THIS HOUSE IS HERS.
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY AND
...WAS IN DEBT TO HER FAMILY.
THE BUSINESS I USED TO RUN
I LOVE AKINO.
I LOVE HER.
NO!
AND THAT'S WHY YOU MARRIED HER, RIGHT?
WELL THEN, WHY DID..?

GASP!
...SUCH A COLD HAND
MMM...
I'M SORRY I WOKE YOU.
THIS MOUNTAIN AIR'S A LITTLE TOO CRISP
DON'T WORRY. I JUST ZONED OUT FOR A WHILE.
YOU'RE REALLY SWEATING. ARE YOU OKAY?

THE MOUNTAIN AIR
THE SUN'S ALREADY DOWN. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BATH AND CHANGE?

CHIRP!

I'M USED TO IT. AND THE SUGANOS ARE JUST DOWN THE HILL.
BOY IT SURE GETS DARK UP HERE. DON'T YOU EVER GET SCARED?
DARLING.
I HAVEN'T SAID HELLO YET...
THE SUGANOS...
AH, MY WIFE'S CARETAKERS
I PROMISED TO GIVE HER AN EMBROIDERY
SHE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN.
MAKIKO MIZUHARA. YOUR SECRETARY...
MIZUHARA...?
HOW'S MS MIZUHARA?
WHO?

CAN YOU FIND A FRAME TO MATCH IT?
SEE? IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
AND WHO WAS SHE?
UH .. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY.
WHY DID SHE QUIT?
, THAT'S RIGHT... SHE QUIT.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY?
SHE QUIT LAST YEAR.
SHE CAME TO THE HOUSE IN TOKYO A LOT, DIDN'T SHE?
WERE YOU TWO FRIENDS?
THAT'S ALL.
WE USED TO HAVE TEA TOGETHER. AND WE'D TALK

TZING!
I WONDER IF SHE GOT MARRIED? YOU'RE SO COLDHEARTED TO FORGET LIKE THAT
DARLING?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
NO, IT'S OKAY
YOU MUST'VE HAD TOO MUCH SAKE. I'LL GET SOME MEDICINE

GULP!
AM I SICK? CAN'T BE
THIS NEVER HAP-PENED TO ME BEFORE.
I'LL BRING YOU SOME WATER.
THERE AREN'T MANY STARS OUT TONIGHT.
IT'S DARK UP THERE.

THE MOUNTAINS SURE FEEL OMINOUS AT NIGHT.
I WONDER WHY...
THIS MOUNTAIN AIN'S A LITTLE TOO CRISP.
HUH?
IT'S NOT
OOHHH.

DARLING
GASP!
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE A RED FLAME OVER THERE?
OH -
THAT'S NOTHING.
IT'S JUST A DEMON FIRE.

IT'S GLOWING RUBY RED SO MAYBE IT'S A WILL-O'-THE-WISP
DARLING, YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR FACE.
AKINO..
TEE, HEE, HEE.
ONCE YOU GET USED TO LIVING OUT HERE, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SQUEAK

YOU JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO IT
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS
--YOU JUST CAN'T SEE IT
NO.
IN THE OLD DAYS, PEOPLE COULD SEE IT BUT NOW WE PRETEND IT DOESN'T EXIST

AKINO-
AAA....
STOP TALKING LIKE THAT
I'M SORRY I WASN'T TRYING TO SCARE YOU
I KNOW, BUT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO LIVE OUT HERE BY YOURSELF
YOU'RE MUCH BETTER NOW LET'S GO BACK TO TOKYO
IT'S NOT NATURAL FOR US TO LIVE APART LIKE THIS
DARLING

PLEASE LET ME STAY FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER
...DOESN'T SHE
THIS MOUNTAIN AIR HAS DONE MORE FOR ME
THAN ANY TOKYO DOCTOR HAS
MATSUO...
...SAY THE SAME THING
...EVERY TIME?
DON'T YOU THINK SO
DARL...

DARLING...
DARLING PLEASE... THE LIGHT

DARLING...
DA...
THE SCENT OF THE MOUNTAIN LILIES MY WIFE PICKED...
...IS GROWING STRONGER.

CREEK
CREAK CREAK
CREAKY CREAK
CREAK CREAK
AKINO?
AKINO
...
SQUEAK

SIR
OH.
OH.
WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE?
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
GOOD MORNING, KINU.
DID YOU STAY IN THAT HOUSE LAST NIGHT?
YES.
OH, DON'T WORRY
YESTERDAY. SORRY I DIDN'T DROP BY TO SAY HELLO.

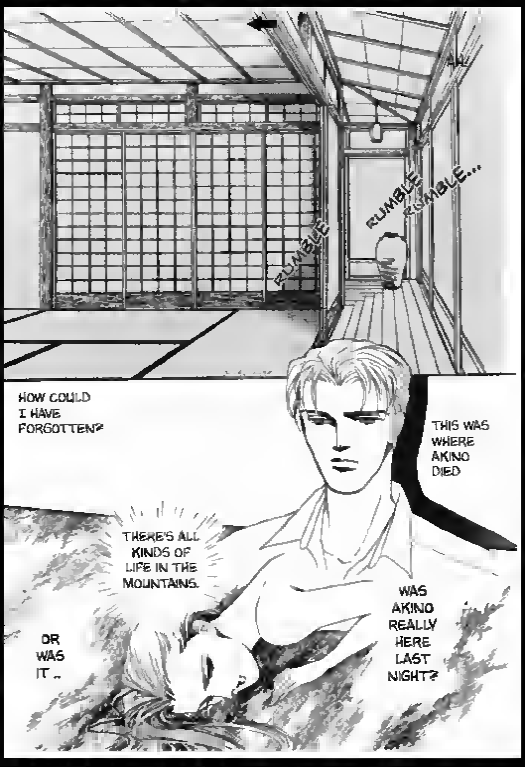
SHE WANTED TO COOK FOR ME SINCE SHE HASN'T SEEN ME FOR A WHILE
WHAT!?
WHAT DID YOU DO FOR DINNER? ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK
AKINO MADE ME DINNER
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KINU, ..
WHAT'S THE MATTER? PLEASE, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF
BY THE WAY, DID AKINO COME THIS WAY?
YOU SEE...
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?
WHEN I WOKE UP SHE WASN'T AROUND.
SIR!

SUDDENLY...
...THE FOG THAT HAD ENVELOPED MY MIND...
...LIFTED.
UH.. UH...
OF COURSE.
IT'S ALMOST THE FIRST ANNI-VERSARY OF HER DEATH.
YOU SEE, YOUR WIFE DIED LAST YEAR.

MAYBE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED
IF ONLY WE'D BEEN A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL
I REMEMBER/ MY WIFE WAS... MURDERED.
IT HAD JUST RAINED SO IT WAS EASY TO SPOT HIS FOOTPRINTS IN THE GARDEN.
LAST SUMMER A MAN BROKE INTO HER HOUSE AFTER ROBBING A STORE
THAT ROBBER...
SHE RESISTED BUT DURING THE STRUGGLE HE KILLED HER..
TO SLIT HER THROAT
HE USED MY WIFE'S OWN SCISSORS...

APPARENTLY HE FELL INTO A GORGE AND DIED WHILE HE WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE
NO...
CHIRP
CHIRP
DID YOU KNOW THEY FOUND HIM?
HUH?
KINU... LAST NIGHT I WAS WITH AKINO
CHIRP
SHE WAS ...
... ALIVE.
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
Y- YES ...
CHIRP
CHIRP

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
I'M GOING TO STAY IN THE HOUSE ONE MORE NIGHT
RUMBLE... RUMBLE...
HIS WIFE WAS COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO HIM. AND HOW SHE DIED
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST DREAMING.
SHIT...
DO YOU THINK HE'S OKAY?
DEAR.
HE SAID HE SAW HIS WIFE.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE...
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
THIS WAS WHERE AKINO DIED
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WAS AKINO REALLY HERE LAST NIGHT?
OR WAS IT ..

I SHOULDVE TAKEN HER BACK TO TOKYO!
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED ALONE
...ON THAT RAINY NIGHT
FLOP!
SPLIT
SPLATTER
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RAIN?
THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS RAINING...
...THAT NIGHT

SWOOSH
WHO'S
TZING!

DARLING
GASP!

DO YOU REMEMBER
...HOW YOU KILLED ME?
SPLAT
SPLATTER
AKIND...
SPLAT
SPLATTER
YOU KNOW, THOSE MOUNTAIN LILIES SMELLED TOO STRONG
DON'T YOU THINK THESE GENTIANS ARE PRETTIER?

SPLAT
SPLATTER
UHH
JUST CALM DOWN, AKINO.
TELL ME/ I ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH.
THAT'S A...
I CAN'T DENY IT
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU AND MS. MIZUHARA?
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT LEAVING YOU.
YOU WANT TO LEAVE ME. THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

SPLAT
SPLATTER
UHH
JUST CALM DOWN, AKINO.
TELL ME! I ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH.
THAT'S A...
I CAN'T DENY IT
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU AND MS. MIZUHARA?
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT LEAVING YOU.
YOU WANT TO LEAVE ME. THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU JUST THINK I'M IN YOUR WAY
STOP IT!
AKINO!
BUT I'M SICK
YOUR SICKNESS IS PSYCHOLOGICAL
IF YOU LEAVE ME
I'LL KILL MYSELF
STOP THIS RIGHT NOW
SLAM!

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH AFTER THAT.
UMM, MATSUO.
WHEN I CAME TO...
...I WAS HOLDING A PAIR OF BLOOD-SOAKED SCISSORS
...AND AKINO WAS LYING DEAD IN FRONT OF ME.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU.
WHY DID IT HAVE TO
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...
AN ACCIDENT!!
THEN WHY...
... DID I RUN?
THAT NIGHT I DROVE...
...FOREVER.

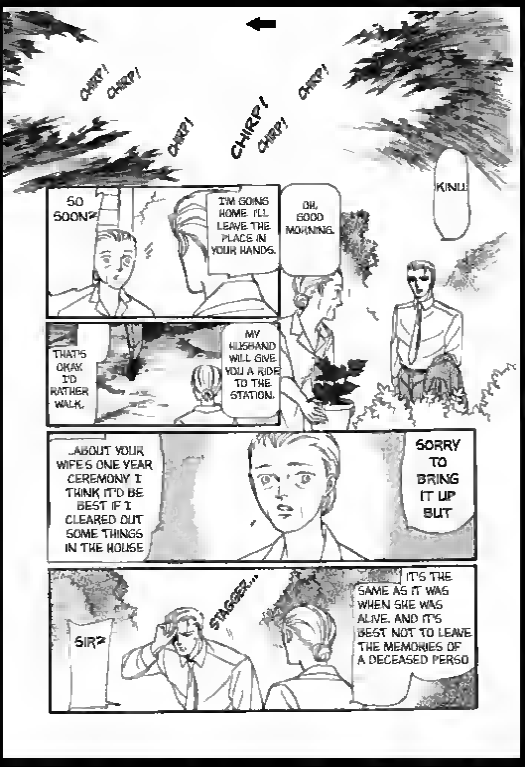
I WIPED MY FINGER-PRINTS OFF THE SCISSORS
I KNEW THE RAIN WOULD HELP ME GET AWAY
DID I DO ALL THAT JUST TO PROTECT MYSELF?
I CHEATED ON AKINO MANY TIMES
THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT...
DARLING

THERE'S NO MAN ALIVE MORE DECEITFUL THAN ME
I REMEMBER NOW, AKINO.
THAT MAN
MY GOD, AFTER I RAN AWAY THE ROBBER MUST HAVE COME
AKINO.
DIED BECAUSE HE WENT INTO THE MOUNTAINS UNPREPARED

ISN'T THAT THE REASON YOU'RE HERE?
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME NOW?
WHY?

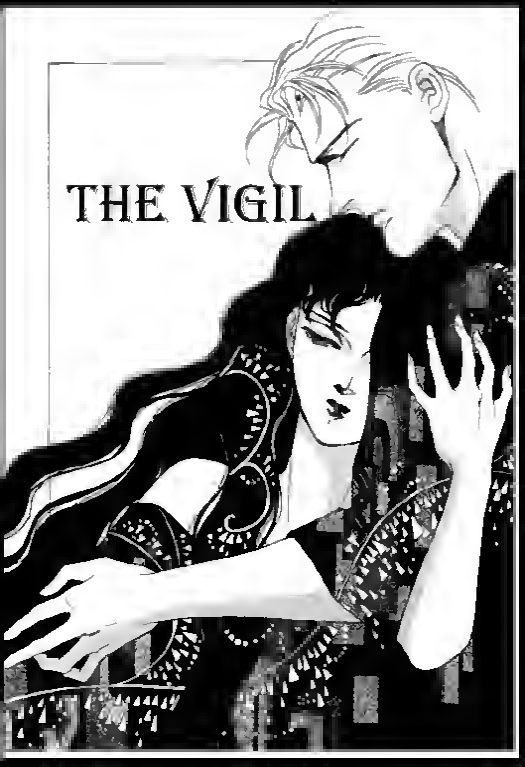
DARLING, I...
...LOVE YOU.
YOU'LL COME BACK AGAIN, WON'T YOU?
YOU'LL COME BACK TO SEE ME?

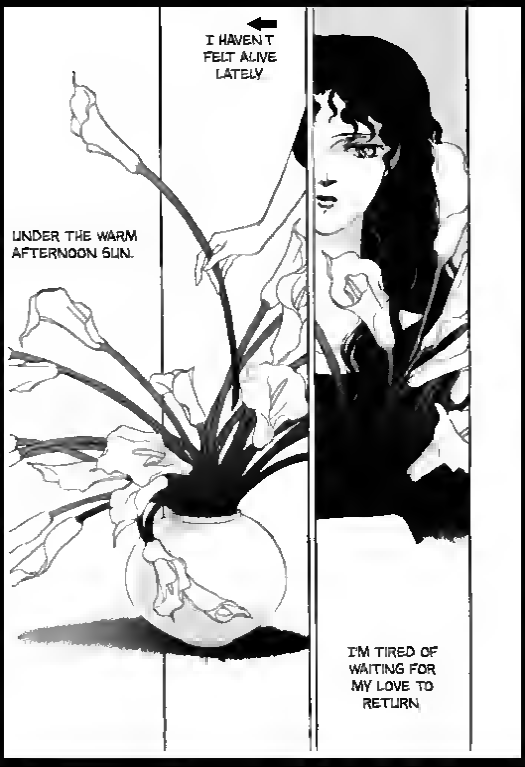
I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.
PLEASE COME TO SEE ME.
DON'T FOR-GET ME.
I TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE HOUSE THAT RAINY NIGHT
... BUT SHE CAUGHT ME.
I LOVE YOU.
I CAN NEVER RUN AWAY FROM HER.


CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
KING
OH, GOOD MORNING.
I'M GOING HOME. I'LL LEAVE THE PLACE IN YOUR HANDS.
SO SOON?
MY HUSBAND WILL GIVE YOU A RIDE TO THE STATION.
THAT'S OKAY. I'D RATHER WALK.
SORRY TO BRING IT UP BUT
...ABOUT YOUR WIFE'S ONE YEAR CEREMONY. I THINK IT'D BE BEST IF I CLEARED OUT SOME THINGS IN THE HOUSE
IT'S THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE. AND IT'S BEST NOT TO LEAVE THE MEMORIES OF A DECEASED PERSO
STAGGER...
SIR?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, SIR.
PLEASE LEAVE THE HOUSE THE WAY IT IS. DON'T MOVE A THING.
I'M FINE.
OH DEAR YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET. ARE YOU OKAY?
I'LL BE BACK.
TAKE CARE.

WHOOSH
I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK BACK TO KNOW
SHE'S STANDING WITH HER BACK AGAINST THE DEPTH OF SUMMER.
I'VE JUST LEFT AND SHE'S ALREADY WAITING FOR MY RETURN.
END OF THE DEPTH OF SUMMER


THE VIGIL


I HAVEN'T FELT ALIVE LATELY
UNDER THE WARM AFTERNOON SUN.
I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR MY LOVE TO RETURN

EVERYDAY AT WORK OR WITH MY FRIENDS
IT ALL SEEMS UNREAL - LIKE A DREAM.
THAT MUST BE IT I'M ONLY DREAMING YOU'RE NOT HERE
BUT... AT NIGHT

... I'M PAINFULLY LONELY
AND THEN I REMEMBER THIS IS REALITY AFTER ALL.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.

I'D RATHER DIE THAN SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS.
DUSTH
WHA
GASP!

..HEY YOU! HEY?
A CAT?
lick
WHOSE CAT ARE YOU?
I MUST HAVE LEFT THE PATIO DOOR OPEN.
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?

PURR
PURR
THIS CAT NEVER COMES IN THE MORNING
...ONLY AT NIGHT
YOU'RE A MYSTERY

SOMETHING THIS WARM CAN'T BE A PIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION
WHENEVER I FEEL HEARTSICK ENOUGH TO CRY, THIS CAT APPEARS
AND HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO GET IN?
THEY PROBABLY DON'T ALLOW PETS IN THIS BUILDING
...THAT MOVES QUIETLY IN THE DARKNESS.
HE'S A GRACEFUL SHADOW
HIS EYES ARE LIKE NIGHT

...MEMORIES FLOOD INTO ME.
WHEN I LOOK INTO
HE USED TO LOVE CATS,
NO MATTER HOW SCRUFFY THEY WERE.
THE DAY HE PROMISED TO COME HOME HAS LONG SINCE PASSED.
HE'S STILL NOT HERE.
YOU SEE HE...
WENT OFF TO A WARTORN COUNTRY
A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD FROM MINE THE BATTLEFIELD
HE'S A JOURNALIST
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK THIS WAR WILL LAST TOO LONG
WHERE I'M GOING IS SAFE.
DON'T WORRY
IT'LL BE DANGEROUS THERE...!

BUT I'LL BE SAD HERE BY MYSELF
THEN I'LL SEND MY LOVE TO YOU.
SO PLEASE ACCEPT IT
NO MATTER HOW FAR I GO... NO MATTER HOW LONG I'M AWAY

ALWAYS
GASP!
THE CAT!
NO I WASN'T
A DREAM.
WAS I .. ASLEEP?

HEY YOU ...
WHERE ARE YOU?
I'LL SEND
...MY LOVE...
MS. IZUMI, TELEPHONE.
RIGHT.
LINE THREE.

KEN-TARO!
HELLO, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
..WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF MY BROTHER.
THE WAR IS GETTING WORSE AND THE SEARCH ISN'T GOING WELL.
THE CHANCES OF HIM BEIN-GALIVE... ARE ALMOST NIL.
I'LL BE BACK SOON ..

MY BROTHER VISITED A FRIEND IN ITALY BEFORE HE STARTED HIS ASSIGNMENT
YES, HE SENT ME A POST CARD
THIS ITALIAN GUY SENT ME SOME THINGS HE'D LEFT THERE
A FEW ROLES OF FILM WITH PICTURES OF FRIENDS AND SITES..
AMONG THEM WAS A PICTURE OF HIM.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE IT
YURIKO
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...
BUT I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU TRY TO FORGET ABOUT MY BROTHER'S PROMISE. MY MOTHER AGREES
KENTARO
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT UNTIL I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED
...I PLAN TO KEEP WAITING.

YOU CAME FROM AFAR...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
THROUGH THE DARKNESS...
...TO SEE ME...
I'M FINE...
YURIKO

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
YOU SEE NOW I UNDER-STAND
...THAT THE NIGHT ISN'T SO LONELY AFTER ALL.
END OF THE VIGIL

WHERE...
...AM I?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

THE BLOOD RED SHADOW

AIEEEEE...
FUMIKO
FUMIKO
UH ...
HAS SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS?
YES, JUST NOW ...

FUYUKO
I DON'T REMEMBER
MRS. TACHIBANA?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE...? I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT...?
I'LL GET THE DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY.
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES...
WHO ARE YOU?
I COULDN'T REMEMBER A THING.

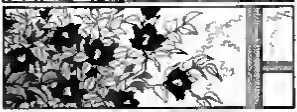
YOU FELL OFF THE CLIFF BEHIND YOUR HOUSE, OR RATHER SOME ONE PUSHED YOU.
MA AM
I CAN'T REMEMBER...
WHAT ..?
ON TOP OF THIS SAME CLIFF, WE FOUND A DEAD MAN
HE'D COME TO VISIT YOU THAT DAY
THE MAN WAS TAKASHI KOMIYA, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF YOUR FAMILY'S COMPANY.
STABBED BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE WEAPON YET.
D-D-DEAD?

ONE OF YOUR STAFF SAW A STRANGE MAN RUNNING FROM THE GARDEN. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?
INSPECTOR.
I THINK SHE'D BETTER REST NOW
YOU THINK?
LEMME ASK YOU, THEN. WHY DID KOMIYA HAVE TO MEET WITH YOUR WIFE THAT DAY?
WELL, MY WIFE'S FAMILY BUSINESS JUST-MERGED WITH MINE.
AH, THE TACHIBANA CORPORATION, RIGHT?
AND KOMIYA WAS PROBABLY THE BUSIEST OF ALL OF US. HE WAS PLANNING A MAJOR BRIEFING.
HMM.
THE PRESIDENT, MY WIFE'S FATHER, JUST PASSED AWAY.
I'D BET THERE WAS PLENTY OF DISSENT OVER THAT MERGER...
WELL, CALL ME IF YOUR WIFE REMEMBERS ANYTHING.

I CAN'T SEEM TO RECOLLECT ANYTHING THETOLD ME MY NAME'S FUYUKO TACHIBANA
...AND THE MAN NEXT TO ME IS MY HUSBAND, MASAYUKI.
THIS IS YOUR HOME.
WEL-COME HOME.
WEL-COME HOME.
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL.

THANK YOU.
I'LL BRING YOU SOME TEA.

GRANDFATHER REALLY LOVED CAMELLIAS, SO THE GARDEN'S FULL OF THEM.



MY LATE GRANDFATHER LIVED IN THIS HOUSE.
IT'S OLD, BUT YOU LIKED IT HERE.
ME?

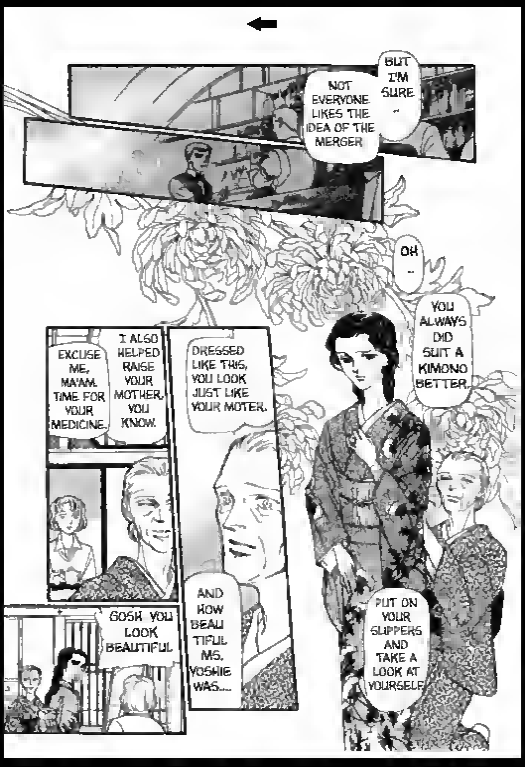
FUYUKO.

THEY TOLD ME WE'VE ONLY BEEN MARRIED TWO MONTHS. HE SEEMS VERY KIND.
NO. UM...I THINK MY MEMORY WILL COME BACK FASTER IF I STAY HERE.
SO PLEASE...
MY MOTHER'S REALLY CONCERNED. SHE WANTS YOU TO STAY WITH HER. BOTH YOUR PARENTS HAVE PASSED AWAY AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
FUYUKO, THIS IS CHIYO. SHE'S BEEN WITH YOUR FAMILY A LONG TIME.
I'M SURE MRS. TACHIBANA IS TIRED. I THINK IT'S BEST IF SHE RESTED.
OF COURSE.
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
SO THIS IS THE PERSON
I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT HIM, BUT WHEN I SAW HIM IN THE HOSPITAL, MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT.

SEE YOU LATER.
MAYBE YOU COULD JOG HER MEMORY BY TELLING HER ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD
THUMP
MS. FUYUKO
CHIYO
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN.
YOU POOR THING.. YOU POOR THING.
YOU'VE LOOKED SO WORN OUT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN WITH RIM, MS. FUYUKO!
A BAD IDEA.. ? DID I..?
YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ME I KNEW THIS MARRIAGE WAS A BAD IDEA
BUT FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMPANY YOU MARRIED...

..A MAN YOU DIDN'T LOVE..
IS THAT YOU IDAZ IT'S ME, MASAYUKI..
I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU- I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK.
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR WIFE. THEY STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE CULPRIT, HAVE THEY?
IF ONLY SHE COULD REMEMBER SOME-THING ...

KOMIYA, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAS MURDERED, AND IF SOMEONE IN THE COMPANY WAS INVOLVED I CAN'T RELY ON THE POLICE ALONE.
BUT THANKS TO HER LACK OF MEMORY, AN UNSUCCESSFUL PI AGENCY LIKE MINE GOT SOME WORK.
MASAYUKI.
YOU TOOK OVER YOUR WIFE'S FAMILY'S BUSINESS, RIGHT?
SO YOU MARRIED HER BECAUSE
A PRETTY THIN EXCUSE FOR GETTING MARRIED
HER RELATIVES OFFERED THIS MARRIAGE.
IT IS A WELL ESTABLISHED NAME, BUT THEY WEREN'T TRADE MAGNATES OR ANYTHING.
TOMISHIMA IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED AND RESPECTED NAME.
HEY, WE WEREN'T FORCED TO MARRY!
OKAY, I GET IT.
BESIDES, THE MERGER WAS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.
ANYHOW, AFTER HER FATHER PASSED AWAY THEIR BUSINESS TOOK A DIVE.
DON'T GET MAD AT ME JUST BECAUSE YOUR DARLING WIFE DOESN'T REMEMBER YOU.

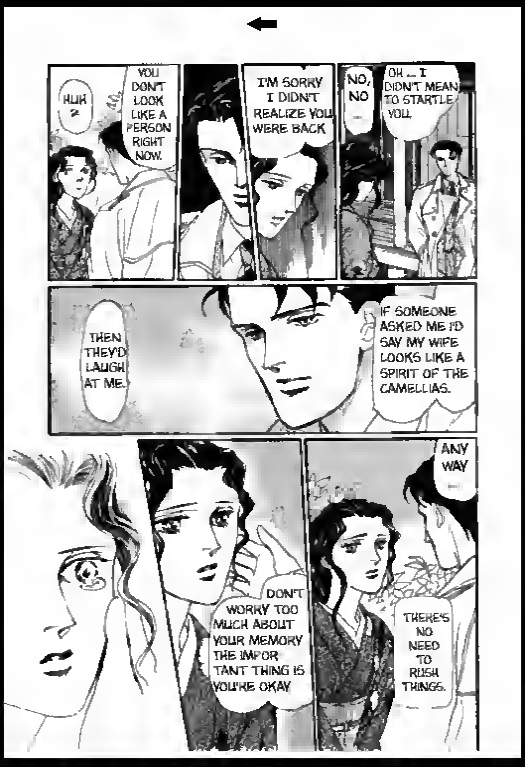

BUT I'M SURE ..
NOT EVERYONE LIKES THE IDEA OF THE MERGER
OH ..
YOU ALWAYS DID SUIT A KIMONO BETTER.
PUT ON YOUR SLIPPERS AND TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE.
I ALSO HELPED RAISE YOUR MOTHER, YOU KNOW.
DRESSED LIKE THIS, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOTER.
AND HOW BEAUTIFUL MS. YOSHIE WAS....
GOSH YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL

MEDICATION FOR FUYUKO TACHIBANA

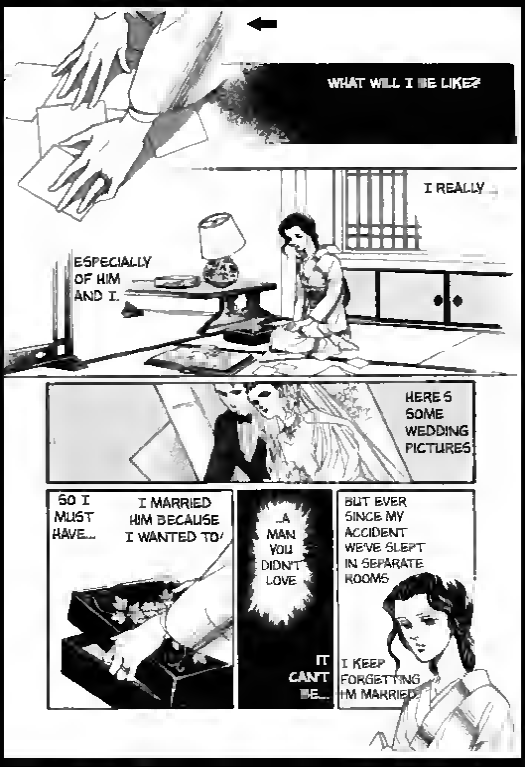
COMING.
EXCUSE ME, CHIYO YOU'RE NEEDED IN THE KITCHEN.
DON'T YOU WORRY CHIYO WILL RESCUE YOU FROM THIS HOUSEHOLD
YESSY MS. FUYUKO.
DID I REALLY NOT LOVE THAT MAN?
IS IT TRUE? IS MY MARRIAGE REALLY LIKE CHIYO SAYS?
I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING

I'M FRIGHTENED
IS IT THAT FLOWER?
WHY?
NO, IT'S THE COLOR

FUYUKO!


HUH?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A PERSON RIGHT NOW.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BACK
NO, NO...
OH... I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
IF SOMEONE ASKED ME I'D SAY MY WIFE LOOKS LIKE A SPIRIT OF THE CAMELLIAS.
THEN THEY'D LAUGH AT ME.
ANY WAY...
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT YOUR MEMORY THE IMPORTANT THING IS YOU'RE OKAY
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS.

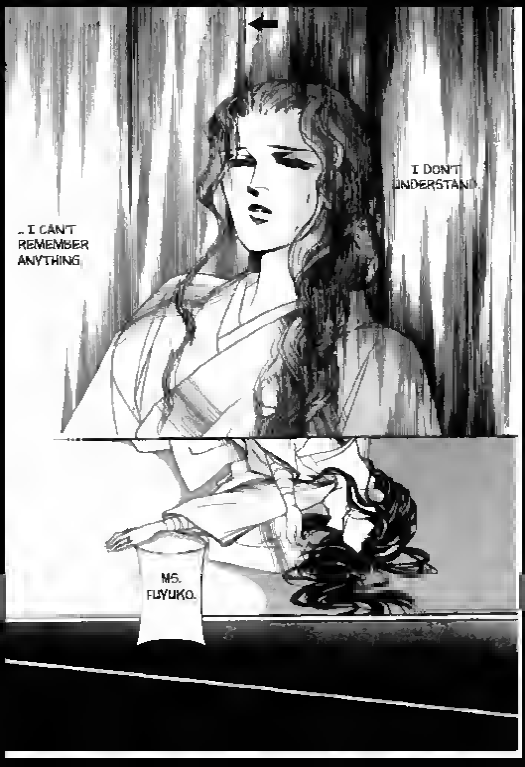
I... I'M SORRY
SUCH A GENTLE PERSON.
AND WHAT ABOUT ME?
I WONDER IF HE'LL STAY THIS KIND AFTER MY MEMORY RETURNS...


WHAT WILL I BE LIKE?
I REALLY...
ESPECIALLY OF HIM AND I...
HERE'S SOME WEDDING PICTURES
SO I MUST HAVE...
I MARRIED HIM BECAUSE I WANTED TO!
...A MAN YOU DIDN'T LOVE
IT CAN'T BE...
BUT EVER SINCE MY ACCIDENT WE'VE SLEPT IN SEPARATE ROOMS
I KEEP FORGETTING I'M MARRIED

GASP!
WHO COULD'VE ...DONE SUCH A THING?
ME?
WAS IT ME?
IT COULDN'T BE.
MY HEAD
MS. FUYUKO

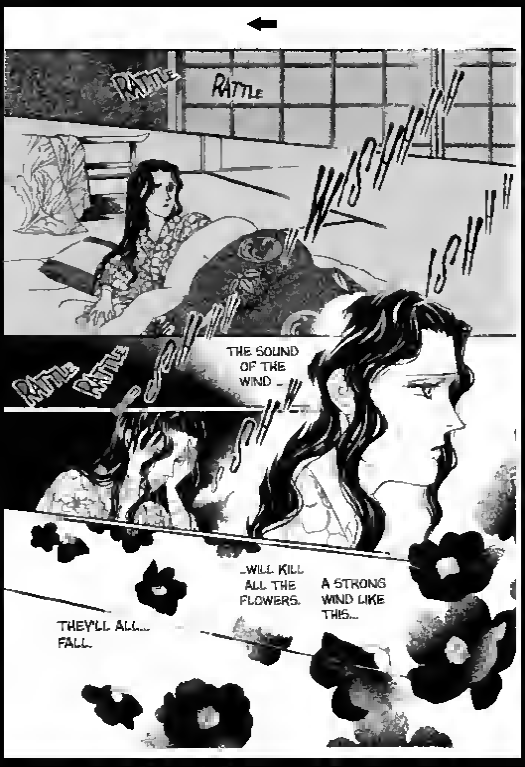
TIME FOR YOUR MEDI-CINE.
MS. FUYUKO.
THAT MAN WAS YOUR PARENTS' ENEMY!
CHIYO... STOP THIS.
DON'T LET THAT MAN DECEIVE YOU
THE TACHIBANA FAMILY HAS BEEN TRYING TO STEAL YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS FOR MANY YEARS.
THAT'S WHAT DROVE YOUR FATHER TO HIS GRAVE.

SINCE YOU CAME HERE FOR REVENGE, I FOLLOWED YOU WITHOUT QUESTION.
SHE RESENTED THAT FAMILY TO THE VERY END
YOUR MOTHER, MS. YOSHIE, GOT SICK RIGHT AFTER YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY
EVERY DAY YOU TOLD ME HOW MUCH YOU HATED THOSE TACHIBANAS
...WHY WE CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE
YOU'LL REMEMBER SOON...
KOMIYA?
WHY KOMIYA HAD TO END UP LIKE THAT
WHO WAS HE...?


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
..I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
MS. FUYUKO.

SORRY.
THEY SAID SOMEONE WANTED TO SEE ME BUT IT'S ONLY YOU.
OH ...
MASAYUKI.
YOU EVER SEEN THIS GUY?
ANY-WAY...
HE'S NOT ONE OF MY EMPLOYEES.
I TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM BUT I LOST HIM.
HE LOOKS SUSPICIOUS TO ME.
NEVER.
WHEN I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY, HE WAS HANGING AROUND OUTSIDE.
SO I'M GONNA SEE IF HE'S GOT A RECORD

ALL RIGHT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
IT FEELS LIKE WINTER
BRRR..
WELCOME HOME.
NO/ SHE'S SLEEPING NOW
MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK ON HER LATER, THEN.
SHE TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE. SHE'S IN HER ROOM...
HOW'S FUYUKO Z

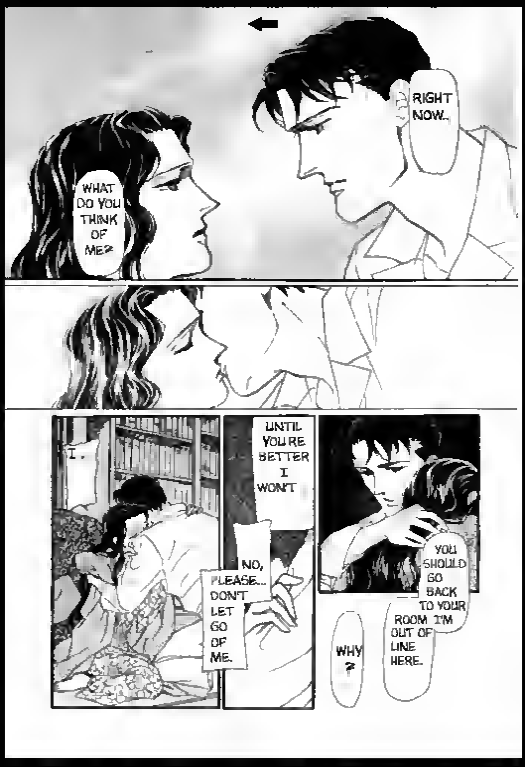

RATTLE
RATTLE
WISHHH
ISHHH
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHH
THE SOUND OF THE WIND...
...WILL KILL ALL THE FLOWERS.
A STRONG WIND LIKE THIS...
THEY'LL ALL... FALL.

THE FLOWERS...
...WILL COVER THE GROUND.
SHWISHHH
IS THAT THE WIND...?
?
CLACK CLACK
RATTLE

THE FLOWERS...
...WILL COVER THE GROUND.
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING...
HERE, DRINK THIS.
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL HELP YOU CALM DOWN
THIS MAN'S VOICE
THE SOUND OF THE WIND PROBABLY CONFUSED YOU.
...IS VERY CALMING.
DRINK IT SLOWLY.

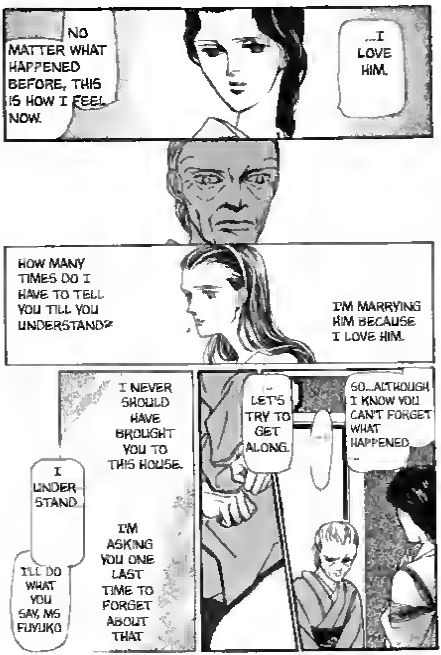
THE PANIC I FELT...
...IS GONE NOW
YOU'LL BE ASLEEP SOON
I WANT YOU
TO LOOK AT ME NOW. WHAT DO YOU SEE?
DID YOU MARRY ME BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME?
DID
DID I...?
PLEASE DON'T GET ANGRY... WHEN I ASK YOU THIS...
WHAT?


RIGHT NOW..
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME?
I..
UNTIL YOU'RE BETTER I WON'T
NO, PLEASE... DON'T LET GO OF ME.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM. I'M OUT OF LINE HERE.
WHY?

DON'T WANT TO JUST BE YOUR FLOWER SPIRIT

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
MS. SUYUKO.

YES, YOU DO
I'M FEELING FINE. I DON'T NEED ..
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TAKEN YOUR MEDICINE THIS MORNING.
CHIYO
IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT, YOU'RE GOING TO GET WORSE.
THERE YOU ARE.
I MAY NOT HAVE MY MEMORY BUT..
I AM MASA-YUKI'S WIFE, AFTER ALL.
PLEASE STOP CALLING ME MS. FUYUKO
UM, CHIYO


NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, THIS IS HOW I FEEL NOW.
...I LOVE HIM.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TILL YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M MARRYING HIM BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THIS HOUSE.
I UNDER STAND.
I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY, MS FUYUKO
I'M ASKING YOU ONE LAST TIME TO FORGET ABOUT THAT
... LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG.
SO...ALTHOUGH I KNOW YOU CAN'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED, ...

SWIP
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP
I FEEL KIND OF OUT OF SORTS.
I THOUGHT I'D GO OUT BUT MAYBE I'LL JUST STAY IN INSTEAD...
I WANTED HER TO HELP ME GET DRESSED
OH.. SHE MUST'VE GONE SHOPPING.
MASAYO?
MASAYO?

WHAT COULD THAT BE...?
MAYBE IF I CHANGE INTO SOME LESS TRADITIONAL CLOTHES
AEEEEEE!
CLANG!
thump-pa-thump-pa

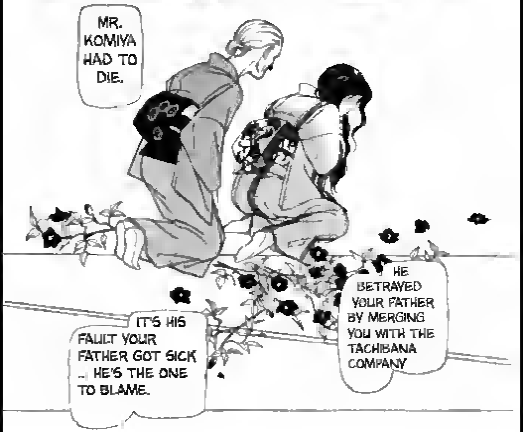
MS. FUYUKO.
DID SOMETHING STARTLE YOU?
ga-gung
ga-gung
ISN'T THAT MS. FUYUKO'S SHORT SWORD?
THE ONE YOU USED TO KILL MR. KOMIYA.
gung-ga

IS MASAYUKI HERE?
THE POLICE PICKED UP THAT GUY ON A SEPARATE CHARGE.
WHAT THE HELL! I TOLD YOU TO CALL BEFORE YOU COME.
I RAN INTO HER NEAR THE HOSPITAL
SIR, PLEASE TELL THIS MAN TO LET GO OF ME!
MASAKO

I THOUGH IT HAD RUN OUT JUST YESTERDAY BUT
THE MEDICINE'S ALMOST GONE.
WELL, AS I WAS SHOPPING I HAPPENED TO PASS BY THE HOSPITAL
THE HOSPITAL SAID THEY HAVEN'T SUPPLIED ANY MEDICINE SINCE SHE WAS DISCHARGED
I'LL PICK SOME UP TOMORROW.
SO I THOUGHT I'D PICK UP MRS. TACHIBANA'S MEDICINE.
THAT SEEMED STRANGE CHIYO SAID SHE'S BEEN GETTING THE MEDICINE FROM THAT HOSPITAL
BUT SHE'S BEEN WITH FUYUKO FOR YEARS
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THAT OLD RAT'S UP TO SOMETHING!
THERE'S MORE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW
I THOUGHT OF THE FLOWERS FALLING
MY GOD
I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD TELL YOU BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MRS. TACHIBANA ALWAYS LOOKS SO LIFELESS AFTER SHE TAKES THAT MEDICINE

...TURNS OUT HE'S SOME KIND OF DRUG-DEALING LOW-LIFE PUNK
THAT GUY I TRIED TO FOLLOW...
HE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE OLD BAT'S NEPHEW!
SLAM!
I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A DOCTOR, FAST.
HEY, WE CAN'T PROVE ANY-THING.
I'M GOING HOME.
MASAVIKU!
WAIT! I'M COMING, TOO.

STOP IT
NO, MS FUYUKO,
STOP IT I ..DON T KNOW


MR. KOMIYA HAD TO DIE.
HE BETRAYED YOUR FATHER BY MERGING YOU WITH THE TACHIBANA COMPANY
IT'S HIS FAULT YOUR FATHER GOT SICK .. HE'S THE ONE TO BLAME.

THAT'S WHY YOU HAD TO DO IT
YOU CAME UP BEHIND HIM IN THE GARDEN...
...WITH THIS SWORD...
...UNDER THE CAMELLIA TREE...
UH OH...
HELP ME/ MY HEAD HURTS
THE RED FLOWERS... THEY WERE ALL...

...BLOODY...
NO. I DON'T KNOW!
IT WASN'T ME
MS FUYUKO
MY NEPHEW'S A VERY HELPFUL BOY. HE GETS ME ALL SORTS OF USEFUL THINGS.

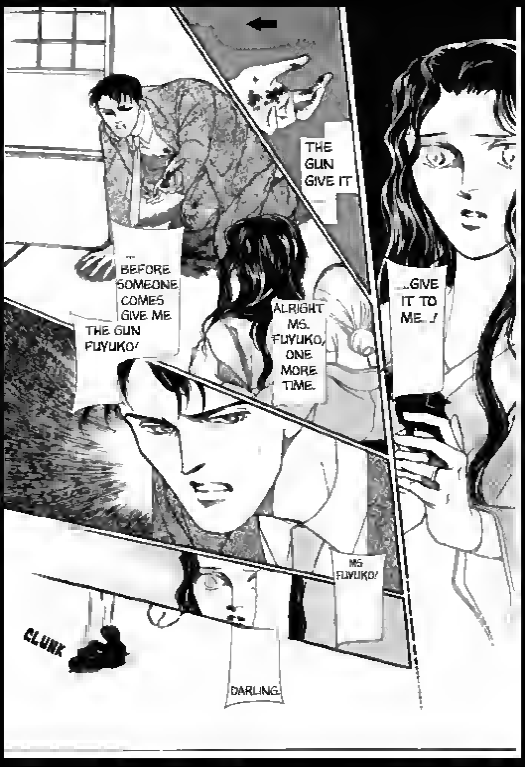
WE'LL USE THIS TO KILL THAT MAN.
IT'S REALLY SIMPLE.
...THAT MAN?
MASAYUKI?
MASAYUKI.
WHO'S HE?
CHIYO WILL HELP YOU. IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON.

SLAM!
FUYUKO!
FUYUKO!
SHE'S NOT ANSWERING.
DON'T PANIC. IT'S A BIG HOUSE.
I'LL CHECK THE ANNEX.
FUYUKO!

FUYUKO.
HE'S HOME EARLY.
HEH, HEH. WHAT PERFECT TIMING.
OKAY, MS. FUYUKO.
MY HEAD HURTS. PLEASE... I'M...
IT'S VERY SIMPLE.
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU DO WHAT CHIYO SAYS.
MS. YOSHIE!
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST SQUEEZE YOUR FINGER

FUYU
...
BANG!

HH
...
..GAS
P...

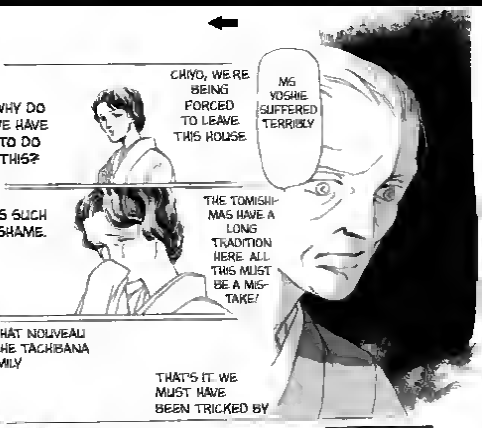

THE GUN GIVE IT ...
...GIVE IT TO ME...!
...BEFORE SOMEONE COMES GIVE ME THE GUN FUYUKO!
ALRIGHT MS. FUYUKO, ONE MORE TIME.
MS. FUYUKO!
CLUNK
DARLING

DAR-
LING
...
DAR-
LING
...

LET GO. LET GO DAMN YOU!
CALL THE POLICE!
R RIGHT.
WHAT THE..?
I DON'T THINK SO, GRANNY
MY PRECIOUS MS. YOSHIE DIED LIKE THAT. SOMEONE HAS TO PAY!
I'LL KILL HIM. I'LL KILL HIM.

DARLING
...
I'M SORRY
FUYUKO
...
ARE YOU...?
DARLING... MASAYUKI

I THOUGHT IF I KILLED HIM, MS. FUYUKO WOULD CHANGE BACK TO THE WAY SHE USED TO BE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING I SAID ANYMORE.
SHE'S NOT THE GIRL I HELPED RAISE. SHE CHANGED
BUT MS. FUYUKO!
CHIYO, I KNOW YOU'RE VERY LOYAL TO MY MOTHER, BUT WHAT SHE SAYS ISN'T TRUE
DON'T TAKE WHAT SHE SAYS TOO SERIOUSLY, OKAY?
HER SICKNESS HAS MADE HER MENTALLY ILL.
AFTER SHE SAID THAT ABOUT MS. YOSHIE.


WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS?
CHIYO, WE'RE BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE
MS YOSHIE SUFFERED TERRIBLY
IT'S SUCH A SHAME.
THE TOMISHIMAS HAVE A LONG TRADITION HERE. ALL THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE!
..THAT NOUVEAU RICHE TACHIBANA FAMILY
THAT'S IT. WE MUST HAVE BEEN TRICKED BY

THAT'S RIGHT
DID YOU KILL HIM? DID YOU?
THAT MAN WAS A TRAITOR.
SHAKI
WHAT ABOUT KOMIYA?

YOU'RE SENDING HATE MAIL AND MAKING CRANK CALLS TO THE TACHIBANA COMPANY. YOU'RE THE ONE SPREADING THE RUMOR THAT TOMISHIMA WAS TAKEN OVER BY TACHIBANA.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ?
I COULDN'T SAY IT IN FRONT OF FUYUKO, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
THAT DAY, AFTER HE MET WITH MS. , FUYUKO, HE CALLED ME OUT TO THE GARDEN.
SO FUYUKO AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING. THAT IT'D BE BEST IF YOU LEFT THIS FAMILY.
THINK ABOUT FUYUKO SHE'S VERY UPSET
EVERYTHING'S BEEN ARRANGED FOR YOU TO LEAVE.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
THE TACHIBANAS GAVE US A GOOD DEAL ON THIS MERGER.
IT'S A LIE. ALL LIES. TRAITOR!
IT'S A LIE!
MS. FUYUKO ? ME?

IT'S YOUR FAULT
..THAT POOR MS. YOSHIE DIED!
CHIYO, HAS MR. KOMIYA LEFT YET?
HE FORGOT SOME THING
AHHHHHHH!

THEN...
...I WAS ABOUT TO KILL MS FUYUKO WHEN
...SHE FELL FROM THE CLIFF SHE LIVED BUT LOST HER MEMORY, SO I DIDN'T NEED TO KILL HER
THERE'S NO QUESTION GOD WAS GIVING HER A CHANCE TO CORRECT WHAT SHE'D DONE.

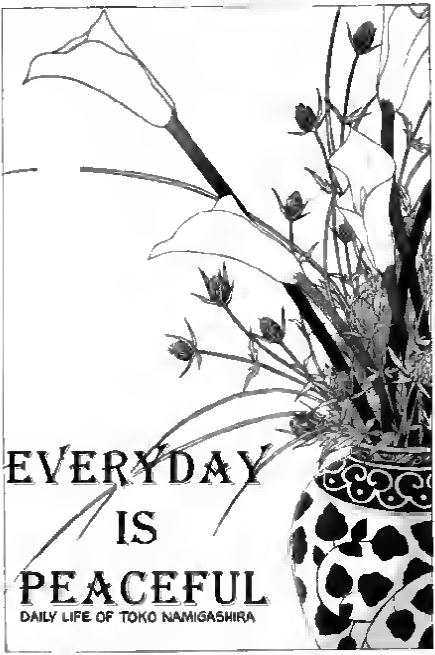
I BOUGHT THE GUN AND DRUGS FOR MY AUNT. SHE GAVE ME PLENTY OF MONEY
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
SHE'S A CRAZY OLD BAT
SHE SAID THE DRUGS WERE CURING THAT LADY
BUT -
IF THE TOMISHIMA FAMILY HADN'T FALLEN ON HARD TIMES, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.
YOU WERE IN SERIOUS DANGER.
I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS THAT DANGEROUS.
THEY SAY SHE'S PROBABLY GOT SOME KIND OF MENTAL DISORDER.

BY THE WAY, HOW'S FUYUKO?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S TOO BAD SOME PEOPLE CHANGE WITH THE TIMES
HER MEMORY'S COME BACK, HASN'T IT?
SHE'S STILL NOT QUITE BETTER. SHE'S BEING TAKEN CARE OF AT MY FAMILY'S HOUSE.
...MY MOTHER'S BEING LOUSY SHE WON'T LET ME SEE HER.
...SO IT WOULD SEEM
OH, SAVE IT.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND HEAL BEFORE SHE FORGETS YOU AGAIN
SHE TOLD ME I HAVE TO GET BETTER FIRST.

YES, MOTHER.
FUYUKO, COULD YOU CUT ME SOME FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN?
OKAY.
THE CAMELLIAS BY THE FOUNTAIN ARE JUST RIGHT.
TODAY'S A PERFECT DAY FOR IT.
?
I'M NOT SCARED.
OF RED FLOWERS ANYMORE

I'M FINALLY HOME.
FUYUKO
WELCOME BACK.
WELCOME BACK.

END OF THE BLOOD RED SHADOW ...



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